SES 2019 Student Scholarship Winners

SES - the Society for Standards Professionals is pleased to announce the following winners of the SES student Scholarship.

Lucas Barber

Lucas Barber is a student at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) studying for his Master's degree in Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS). He has a GPA of 3.83 and is on track to receive a 4.0 this semester.

Rochester Institute of Technology has taught Lucas how vital standards are in shaping the way that commerce, manufacturing, worker safety, community development, and social responsibility are addressed. In his EHS Management, Integrating EHS Management, and EHS System Design classes, he has worked extensively with ISO 14001 and 45001. During the fall 2019 semester, he will continue to work with the standards mentioned above in his EHS System Review and Auditing class, in addition to researching ISO 26000 for his Corporate Social Responsibility class.

Lucas is looking forward to his graduate thesis, which he will begin working on this summer. He will be examining the applicability of the ISO framework to the new sharing/gig economy. His thesis will explore how, and if, current ISO standards make sense for businesses in the sharing economy, or if a new hybrid framework needs to be developed. He will work closely with ISO standards 37101, 45001, 14001, and 26000 and he is optimistic that this work will help him become a better standards practitioner, in addition to developing a management system framework that can make an impact in the sharing economy.

Through his brief experience in the EHS field, he has seen the tremendous impact that standards such as ISO 14001 have had on environmental performance. The standard, which has been adopted by small and large companies alike, has transformed the approach to environmental management. The result of this transformation has not only benefited the environment, but it has improved company performance, strengthened communities, and has eased the burden on regulators.

In the fall of 2018, Lucas was a member of a cross-disciplinary team that competed at the ANSI standards competition in Washington DC. His team selected him as the team leader for the competition based on the leadership traits they witnessed during their preparation for the event. He was humbled by their decision and ecstatic that they placed second in the competition.

Lucas is a volunteer member of the Climate Change Committee of Rochester as he wants to ensure that his community is doing all that it can to mitigate the impact of climate change. His reason for joining the Climate Change Committee is to advocate for those that will be most impacted and least heard in his community. As a member, he has written letters to editors and helped develop programs that reach engage community members from all levels of the socioeconomic spectrum.

Lucas's professional goal is to be at the environmental/sustainability intersection of business, government, and community. His experience at the ANSI standards competition this past fall provided him a glimpse of how standard development works, and how stakeholders from business, government, and the community can engage in the process. He would like to find opportunities that will allow him the chance to be a part of the standards development process.

It is important to him that the companies that he is considering working for upon graduation value international standards. Lucas believes that when a company commits to a standard, they are committing to an idea that will help maximize value, not only for the shareholders but for the employees and the community. When considering job opportunities, he will try to identify companies that have standard certifications because it reveals to him what the company prioritizes as well as if they believe in continual improvement.

Rebekah Schrader

Rebekah Schrader is a freshman at the University of Maryland studying Fire Protection Engineering. She found that the admissions process to be accepted into Fire Protection Engineering was extremely rigorous, as students must first be accepted into the University of Maryland, then the A. James School of Engineering, and finally the Department of Fire Protection Engineering. She successfully completed her first semester with a GPA of 3.59.

Rebekah was exposed to standards at an early age when she received a textbook entitled Common Core which was focused on standards in education. She realized that having everyone learn the same material in the same way was very important in the world of academia. She noted that standards in education provided a level playing field and gave students the same foundation for
their classes, regardless of where they lived or what school they attended. She has seen how Standards are a crucial component in academic curriculum.

Rebekah attended the Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington DC where it allowed her to learn what it meant to be a leader, how to handle conflict, and the steps that it takes to be successful as a team leader and member. She was the “team representative” on the girls’ varsity golf team. She learned that the best way to move forward from conflict is to strengthen communication between groups. Rebekah was also team leader of an engineering project comprised of a team of eight members. The project was to build an autonomous robot that could ride over rocky terrain and sand, and detect objects in front of it. Her team was able to pull everything together and placed third out of seventy teams.

In high school, Rebekah accumulated over 400 volunteer hours through working with different organizations. She was a mentor for middle school students that struggled with their homework. She was the high school representative for BUCS Pride, which is a non-profit organization that raises money for cancer awareness, helps families that are struggling with cancer, and sponsors retreats for survivors or family members affected by the disease. She plans to stay involved in volunteer opportunities because she has learned how incredible and life giving they are.

After graduation, Rebekah would like to pursue a career in fire research. With her degree, her goal is to make firefighting safer for firefighters. She would like to better equip firefighters and civilians with fire knowledge so that everyone has a better understanding of what to do in the case of fire. She understands that the use of standards is important in these goals because they deal with life safety issues and that a common set of standards would allow for better communication throughout the fire service. She plans to demonstrate the use of standards throughout her career, whether it may be when she is working with the fire service, testing the nature of different types of fires, or conducting research to help save lives. Rebekah has recently accepted an offer to become a Fire Safety Research Intern at the UL Firefighter Safety Research Institute for the summer of 2019.

About the SES Student Scholarship

SES established its scholarship program in 2017 to support students involved in the use of standards in their academic curriculum. We know that each new generation of graduating students holds the potential for helping us achieve our mission of increasing awareness and use of standards. The Scholarship Committee uses the following criteria in choosing a winner:

- Academic achievement;
- Leadership Qualities;
- Concern for others/volunteerism;
- Demonstrate use of Standards in academic curriculum; and
- Demonstrate the importance of standards in future career

SES would like to express its sincere appreciation and thanks to UL Standards (https://ulstandards.ul.com/) and CSA Group (https://www.csaigroup.org) for kindly sponsoring the 2019 SES student scholarship. In light of these two generous sponsors, the SES was able to provide two scholarships of $1,000 each in 2019.

For more information about the scholarship program or inquiries on scholarship funding opportunities, please contact admin@ses-standards.org.