



# The Cook Family Foundation

Fall 2019

## PURPOSE

Serving as both a resource for the community and a catalyst for positive change.

## OBJECTIVE

Through strategic, proactive use of funds and grants, strengthen institutions, extend their mission and enable their growth.

## STAFF

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Yvette Collard, Associate Director

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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In our  
**40<sup>TH</sup>**  
**YEAR**  
of awarding scholarships  
to the U of M  
—Since 1980—



**834**  
**STUDENTS**  
from the Shiawassee region  
received scholarships to  
the University of Michigan



**OVER**  
**2 MILLION**  
**DOLLARS**  
Total amount awarded by  
the Foundation and  
Bruce and Jackie Cook

## The Cook Family Foundation Scholarships Now in their 40th Year

This fall, the Cook Family Foundation will begin its fortieth year of awarding scholarships to the University of Michigan.

The first scholarships were granted to two graduates of Owosso High School, the alma mater of **Donald Cook**, the benefactor of the Foundation. Eligibility for the scholarship program has grown to include graduates of 10 high schools in the greater Shiawassee County region. Scholarships have also been awarded to Shiawassee County area residents who attend private, religious, and other public high schools outside the County.

The Cook Family Foundation has always worked closely with the University of Michigan to help Shiawassee County students with the admission process and to help reduce the cost of attending. UM provides financial aid to Michigan residents to make up the difference between their expected family contribution and the cost of attending. The Cook Family Foundation scholarships have helped make college affordable for hundreds of Shiawassee area students.

In 2006, **Bruce** and **Jackie Cook** started to provide a four-year, full tuition scholarship each year to a talented high school graduate from the Shiawassee County region. The nomination of students and the selection of this winner has been integrated with the Cook Family Foundation scholarship process to maximize the scholarship opportunities for local students.



## On Their Way to U of M

This year 20 of the leaders and best from nine area high schools have enrolled, garnering each a scholarship from the Cook Family Foundation.

### Byron

Lillian Keesler  
Timothy Marvin

### Chesaning

Weston Wendling

### Corunna

Charles Bruckman  
Benjamin Jacobs  
Jacob Johnson

### Laingsburg

Malinda Barberio  
Olivia Graham  
Zachary Koonter  
Autumn Zwiernik\*

### Morrice

Rhianna Lucas

### New Lothrop

Garrett Birchmeier  
Caitlyn Bruff  
Charles Weber

### Ovid-Elsie

Haley Hilgendorf  
Jakob Loynes

### Owosso

Abigail Christian  
Taylor Estes  
Morgan Louch

### Perry

Ella Fisher

\*Laingsburg resident, Graduate of Del Ray High School, Costa Rica



*Autumn Zwiernik of Laingsburg is the 2019 recipient of the Bruce and Jacqueline Cook Scholarship.*

## Cook Family Continues Support of the Leaders and the Best

This fall, 20 young men and women from nine area high schools will receive scholarships to the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor thanks to the generosity of the Cook Family Foundation.

The future Wolverines were recognized at a dinner on May 7 and two students received special scholarship awards.

Laingsburg resident **Autumn Zwiernik** was awarded the **Bruce & Jacqueline Cook Scholarship**. This four-year, full tuition scholarship is funded separately from the Foundation by its namesakes. Autumn is the daughter of Matthew Zwiernik and Denise Kay and is a graduate of Del Mar Academy in Costa Rica, where she has spent the last year developing her Spanish skills and doing research on sea turtles. She intends to pursue a science degree and study environmental issues at the University of Michigan.

The **Donald Cook Scholarship** was awarded to **Olivia Graham**, Laingsburg High School valedictorian, and the daughter of Troy and Shannon Graham. She has been either President or Vice President of her class for the last four years, and is President of the Michigan Congregational Youth Council. Olivia will investigate a major in political science, women's studies, or public health.

The Donald Cook Scholarship is awarded by the University of Michigan to a student attending the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and provides \$5,000 per year for four years at U-M. It has been financially supported by the Cook Family Foundation in recognition of the Foundation's founder.

*Olivia Graham of Laingsburg is the winner of this year's Donald Cook Scholarship. She is pictured with Dr. Kedra Ishop, Vice Provost for Enrollment Management of the University of Michigan, and Tom Cook, Executive Director of the Cook Family Foundation.*







# 2019

## Shiawassee Scholars Program in its 20th Year

With funding from the Cook Family Foundation, the Shiawassee Regional Education Service District (SRES D) supports the area's most academically talented students in their high school careers.

The Shiawassee Scholars Program provides resources and support to academically talented high school students to reach their full potential. Students are identified in eighth grade by achieving the highest scores in the county on the SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test).

Shiawassee Scholars participate in several programs, starting with a three-day trip in June to the University of Michigan campus in Ann Arbor. Through high school, Scholars have the opportunity to practice their test-taking skills, attend several informational sessions regarding planning for college and career, get assistance with dual enrollment options and accelerated academic programs, and can apply for a scholarship for a summer academic program.

For more information on the program, contact Renee Dotson at the SRES D at [dotson@sresd.org](mailto:dotson@sresd.org), 989-743-3471 or visit the Programs & Services section of their website at [sresd.org](http://sresd.org)

*New inductees to the Shiawassee Scholars program had the opportunity to explore the University of Michigan this spring. Here they pose with the 'Owosso Mastodon,' on display at the University of Michigan's Museum of Natural History.*

### Shiawassee Scholars 2019 Inductees Graduating Class of 2023

#### Byron

Larissa Call  
Olivia Chapman  
Reese Forgie  
Mitchell Morrow  
Houghton Svoboda  
Lana Treidel  
Nathan Webster

#### Corunna

Chase Bone  
Laurie Platner  
Isaiah Shook  
Kaylee Siddens  
Peyton Termeer  
Xavier Zuckschwerdt

#### Durand

Sydney Leydig  
Jillian Reddy  
Jaxon Smith

#### Laingsburg

Emilia Laing  
Aubrey Loos  
Sydney Morrill  
Casmir Palazzolo  
Nicholas Regan  
Olivia Rodriguez  
Ian Smith  
Mitchell Yates

#### Morrice

Payton Gutting  
Campbell Stinson

#### New Lothrop

Nicholas Barnette  
Ryan Heslip  
Tyler Kohlmann

#### Owosso

Claire Agnew  
Alexander Binger  
Amanda Brainerd  
Tanner Cummings  
Abigail Dryer  
Evan Livingston  
Adam Marcotte  
Liam McGraw  
Olivia McIntyre  
Natalie Nolph  
Elizabeth Rood  
Marisa Rose  
Natalie Thayer  
John Tuttle IV

#### Perry

Chloe Douglas  
Cassidy Flick  
Jonah Smith  
David Zheng

#### St. Paul

Tyler Hufnagel  
Olivia Savage



# Success Runs in the Family

This spring, Kurt McEwan of Laingsburg graduated from the University of Michigan. **Kurt** was the fourth brother of the McEwan family to attend UM, all with the assistance of the Cook Family Foundation. “From the exploratory opportunities offered through Shiawassee Scholars to receiving a scholarship to help with tuition, you have had a profound impact on their lives and their future” said their parents **Mark** and **Susan** in a note to the Foundation.

All four were graduates of Laingsburg High School. Eldest son **Mark** (teaching degree 2009) received additional education at Oregon State and now works as a software developer for Jackson National. **Douglas** (engineering 2011 and a masters in 2018) works for Ford Motor Company. **Gregory** (engineering, 2013) is a design engineer with Stryker and is making plans to get a master’s degree. At this time, recent graduate Kurt’s intent (International Studies and German) is to attend Naval Officer Candidate School with plans for further education as well.



*Pictured from L to R are the McEwan UM Graduates: Kurt (2019, Engineering), Gregory (2013, Engineering), Douglas (2011 Bachelor's & 2018 Masters in Engineering), and Mark (2009 Education).*

## Inside:

Bruce & Jackie Cook Scholarship Winner  
Donald Cook Scholarship Winner  
University of Michigan Scholars 2019  
New 2019 Shiawassee Scholars

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