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Georgia Tech Student Wins Local Scholarship to Study in France

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Lucas Campbell will prepare to work in the global marketplace during his spring semester studies abroad at Georgia Tech-Lorraine in Metz, France, thanks to help from a local scholarship.

Campbell is the 2011 recipient of the Dr. Adrian R. Lawler Exchange Student Scholarship. Lawler, an Oak Ridge High School graduate and the second local student to participate in an American Field Service international program in 1957, established the scholarship in 2008 to offer area students similar opportunities to gain tolerance and understanding of people from other cultures.

Lawler, a retired marine scientist who lives in Mississippi, designated the Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation to administer the scholarship with a five-member scholarship committee. The scholarship funds learning or educational travel for ORHS students or graduates, with special consideration given to AFS students. Four other Oak Ridge students have received Lawler scholarships for college study abroad programs.

Campbell, a third-year student at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, will continue studies in his major field, materials science engineering with Campbell a concentration in polymer and fiber materials, while in France.

Campbell is working on improving the process of carpet mills as a co-op student at Shaw Industries in Dalton, Ga.

"International study is important to me because I will be working with people from many different cultures in my future, and in this global market I believe it is beneficial to my career and well-being to have experience with the culture of my co-workers, customers and suppliers," Campbell said.

"For example, I am now working closely with people from about five different countries, and it is nice to know who wants to talk about football, and who wants to talk about futbol. Experience with this cultural difference helps me find a common ground with my co-workers and eases cooperation," he added.

The \$1,500 scholarship will aid with the expenses of the spring semester in France, Campbell said. "It is also inspiring to know that there are people from my home town that value the international experience as much as I do," he said. Campbell, an ORHS graduate, is the son of Vince and Ruth Campbell.

Lawler established the scholarship to encourage students to participate in international study programs and to thank Oak Ridge for helping him during his school years. He has designed the scholarship to continue in perpetuity. He described his AFS experience in Sweden as "part of the foundation of my independent nature and thinking."

He said he wanted to sponsor a scholarship for Oak Ridge students so others could learn through

firsthand experience about other people and cultures, with the hope that such experiences would lead to greater understanding and tolerance of others, as well as improved international relationships.

The scholarship will not usually provide total funding, but instead encourages students to earn part of their funding as a life lesson.

The next deadline for applications to the foundation for the scholarship is March 10, 2012. The application may be downloaded for the website of the Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation, www.orpsef.org, under the link, "Adrian Lawler Scholarship."

Lawler retired in 1998 after a career as a marine biologist. He was the first Aquarium Supervisor of Scott Aquarium in Biloxi, Mississippi from 1984 to 1998, and before that, was co-founder and co-chairman of the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory Toxicology Program and head of Experimental Organism Culture from 1975 to 1984. He discovered a fish gill parasite new to science, and he holds a patent on a fish attractant. He is also the author of more than 80 scientific papers and reports.

The Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation, a nonprofit organization founded in 2000, provides funds beyond public tax dollars for education, raising funds through grants and private donations to invest in enhanced educational programming, innovative technology, and state-of-the-art facilities for teachers and students. For more information, see the foundation's website at www.orpsef.org, or call Lila Metcalf, Education Foundation director, at (865) 241-3667.

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