

**News from Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation
For Immediate Release
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Meaghan Riemer Wins Lawler Scholarship for Study in Japan

International study this summer at the Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language will fulfill a lifelong dream for Meaghan Riemer. A junior at Clemson University in South Carolina, Riemer is the second recipient of the Dr. Adrian R. Lawler Exchange Student Scholarship established last year for students from Oak Ridge.

Lawler, an Oak Ridge High School graduate who was the second student here to participate in an American Field Service international exchange program, wanted to encourage students attending Oak Ridge schools or recent graduates to participate in international study programs and educational trips. He designated the Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation to administer the scholarship.

An AFS exchange student in Sweden during the summer of 1957, Lawler established the scholarship to offer students opportunities to gain tolerance and understanding of people from other cultures.

Riemer will travel with a Clemson professor and 15 other classmates to Kyoto to study Japanese language and culture for eight weeks. Students will take part in home stays with individual families and assist their professor in researching tourist attractions, shops and restaurants for a guidebook on the city.

Riemer, majoring in mathematics with minors in physics and Japanese, believes her international study experience will benefit her in a possible career in scientific research.

“I interned last summer at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. One thing I noticed was the big international culture there. Science is so collaborative,” she said. Riemer assisted with data analysis on experiments at ORNL’s Spallation Neutron Source. “My internship showed me how I could combine my two passions of applied mathematics in research and Japanese. Following my summer study abroad in Kyoto, with my firsthand experience in interacting with foreign cultures and my intense practice in the Japanese language, I can easily collaborate with international scientists, or even conduct research living abroad in Japan.”

Her parents, Bernie and Susan Riemer, lived in Japan for a year before she was born. Their memories, friends, and the Japanese traditions they introduced her to instilled an intense interest in Japanese culture and a desire to travel there. Japanese food, small toys, cultural items, and origami all drew her interest as she was growing up.

“It’s been a life dream of mine to get over there and get immersed,” she said.

The scholarship will be a great benefit in helping supplement her tuition expenses, she said, particularly since she is paying most of the cost of the international program herself. A 2006 graduate of Oak Ridge High School, Riemer began taking Japanese language courses as a student at Clemson.

Lawler, a retired marine biologist now living in Mississippi, hoped the scholarship would result in experiences like those Riemer will have. The scholarship is intended to cover part of the costs of study abroad or educational travel and encourages students to earn money to contribute to their experience.

The Oak Ridge Public Schools Education Foundation is administering the scholarship with a five-member scholarship committee. The next deadline for applications to the foundation for the scholarship is July 8. The Education Foundation, a non-profit 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 web site at www.orpsef.org.