FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2019
Contact: National Dairy Shrine
Email: info@dairyshrine.org

National Dairy Shrine Announces Student Recognition Senior Scholarships

Denmark, WI. The National Dairy Shrine is pleased to announce the recipients of the Student Recognition scholarships for 2019. The Student Recognition program recognizes graduating seniors planning a career related to the dairy industry who have demonstrated outstanding leadership, academic ability, and a sincere interest in dairy cattle. Each university is allowed to nominate up to two candidates for this recognition in any given year. The highest recipient receives a $2000 award, the second a $1500 award and the other recipients receive $1000 awards.

The top scholarship recipient of $2000 is Alexandra Gambonini of Petaluma, California who majored in Dairy Science and Agricultural Business at California Polytechnic State University. Alexandra Gambonini of Petaluma, California who is attending California Polytechnic State University and double majoring in Dairy Science and Agricultural Business. Alexandra has been very involved in the Holstein industry in showing and judging. She currently serves on the Holstein Association USA Junior Advisory Committee as chairperson, president of the Los Lecheros Dairy Club, and was president of the California Junior Holstein Association. Alexandra’s future plans include graduate school at the University of Minnesota with emphasis in Agricultural Economics with a goal of being in the agriculture finance industry.

The second award of $1500 goes to Brooke Roberts of Whitelaw, Wisconsin. She is graduating from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Agricultural Communication and Marketing. Brooke has been very successful competing in National Dairy Judging Contests being in the top ten numerous times and was the National Champion in Oral Reasons at World Dairy Expo. She is the Gopher Dairy Club Vice President, a member of NAMA, and is President of the ADSA-SAD Midwest Region. Brooke plans on working with animal marketing in the future with a breed association, commodity group or advertising agency.

The next $1000 recipient is Erica Helmer from Plymouth, Wisconsin, who received a Dairy Science degree from the University of Wisconsin-River Falls. Ms. Helmer has served leadership roles in the UWRF Dairy Club, Student Advisory Council, Alpha Zeta, Block & Bridle and Collegiate Farm Bureau. Erica has been honored with several FFA State & National recognitions and has competed successfully in Dairy Cattle Judging. Erica was the third high individual at the National Intercollegiate Dairy Judging Contest. Ms. Helmer plans to attend graduate school in statistical genomics and dairy genetics.

Then Abigail Jantzi from Clymer, New York, who majored in Animal Science at Penn State University. Abigail was a member of the National Champion Judging team in 2017 and 8th high individual. At Penn State she served as vice president of the Dairy Club and belongs to the American Guernsey, National Brown Swiss, Ayrshire and Holstein Associations. Abigail has
experience traveling to farms for problem solving with a nutrition company and assisting Dr Dechow in his genetic research. After graduation Ms. Jantzi will attend graduate school at Iowa State University to get a PHD in animal breeding and genetics.

Following is **Elisabeth Regusci from Modesto, California** a major in Dairy Science at California Polytechnic State University. Elizabeth has been very active in breed associations and shows with her Brown Swiss & Holstein cattle (Owning 2 All Americans). On campus she is active in the Los Lecheros Dairy Club, in Dairy Judging, Dairy Challenge (Member of the winning National Team), and Sigma Alpha. Ms. Regusci is also a member in the Dairy Girl Network. Elizabeth is an outstanding student and will be entering Cornell University Veterinary school this fall.

The final senior recognition honoree is **Katelyn Allen from Jefferson, Maryland** who was a major in Dairy Science at Virginia Tech. Katelyn has been successful in dairy cattle judging being the 11th individual and a member of the second-high team. She served as secretary of the Virginia Tech Dairy Club, President of Alpha Zeta, and a National Junior Holstein Distinguished Member semifinalist. Katelyn was recently named the Outstanding Senior in the Department of Dairy Science at Virginia Tech. Ms. Allen plans on a communications career in agricultural literacy or journalism.

The annual National Dairy Shrine Scholarship & Awards Banquet will be held in Madison, Wisconsin, on **Thursday October 3rd at 5:30 PM**. For more information about the students being recognized by National Dairy Shrine or tickets for the Awards Banquet, contact the NDS office at info@dairyshrine.org. Additional information on National Dairy Shrine membership or other activities is also available at www.dairyshrine.org. Dairy enthusiasts are encouraged to become a part of the most important dairy organization helping to inspire future dairy leaders, honor current or past dairy leaders and preserve dairy industry history.

#####

Pictures are available if desired. Please contact info@dairyshrine.org to obtain photos of the honorees.