

UNL meteorology student claims AMS award

By Sarah Bachman

Staff writer

For the UNL meteorology department, when it rains, it pours – this time in the form of \$15,000 awards given to only the nation's best and brightest graduates.

For the third straight year, another University of Nebraska-Lincoln student has won an American Meteorological Society/Industry/Government Graduate Fellowship.

Fellowship winners receive a \$15,000 tuition grant for one academic year at the graduate school of their choice, which allows them to focus completely on school, according to the AMS' website.

Students are able to devote more time and energy to their studies without having to worry about tuition, said this year's recipient Sarah Tessendorf.

"This way I can get a head start in the graduate program and get done in two years," she said.

The fellowships are awarded to those students who have been involved, shown leadership and earned good grades throughout their years of being an undergraduate, Tessendorf said.

Not only does the award provide money for school, but its prestige – only 12 to 13 fellowships are given out each year – helps promote considerable recognition in the meteorological world, said Mark Anderson, asso-

ciate professor of geosciences and undergraduate advisor at UNL.

"It will open up doors for her for the rest of her life," Anderson said of Tessendorf, who plans to attend graduate school at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colo.

The award also provides tuition to the annual AMS conference, to be held in Albuquerque, N.M., next January.

At this conference, the fellowship winners have the opportunity to meet top people in the meteorological field, said Amanda Adams, recipient of a 1998 fellowship.

"People who wrote your textbook are telling you that you're smart," she said.

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Sarah Tessendorf

AMS award recipient

Adams graduated from UNL in 1998 and is currently finishing her second year of graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Julie Demuth, a UNL 1999 graduate, received a fellowship for the 1999-2000 school year. She just finished her first year of graduate school at Colorado State.

Tessendorf graduated in May with high distinction and served as vice president and president of

the UNL student chapter of the AMS.

UNL Associate Professor of Geosciences Clint Rowe, the advisor for the UNL student chapter of AMS, said Adams and Demuth also served as officers.

Tessendorf said she considers this award to be a huge honor and a good reward for her hard work for the past four years.

"I feel like what I'm doing and what I've already done is worthwhile," she said.

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