

## **2009 Lakselaget Scholarship Award Winners**

The 2009 Lakselaget Scholarship Committee consisted of Marit Malvey, Turid Ormseth, Anne Gillespie Lewis, Marit Kringstad and Beth Detlie. There were 18 complete applications received, six from Norwegian students and 12 from Minnesota students. The committee reviewed all of the applications and then met to rank the applicants. With advice from the fund manager, the Lakselaget Board and the previous scholarship director, it was determined that 4 awards could be given, for \$1,000 apiece. It is the pleasure of the Lakselaget Scholarship Committee to announce the winners of the Scholarship Awards for 2009.

Kristin Malene Høvik is coming from NTNU (Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet (The Norwegian University of Science and Technology) to the University of Minnesota. She is in her fifth year of study toward a Masters Degree in Energy and Environmental Engineering. She hopes to work in the field of Electrical Drives, mainly with Power Electronic in Windmills. She would like to help make renewable energies more profitable and a better alternative to fossil fuels. In her free time she is a ballet dance instructor for a children's ballet group. Her field is very dominated by men and she feels like she is swimming against the current most days. She has relatives who emigrated to Minnesota at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Contact was lost but she is very interested to see the land where they rebuilt their lives.

Rebecca Lambrecht is graduating from St. Olaf this spring with a degree in Music Performance. She is an accomplished flutist. She has been a feature of the St. Olaf Orchestra for four years, including touring with them in Spain. Her career aspirations require her to continue her education in a Music Academy. She has chosen to swim against the current by attending the Grieg Academy of Music in Bergen, instead of an American Conservatory. This is a two year program. This decision was influenced by her exposure to a performance by the Bergen Woodwind Quintet and a chance to attend a master class taught by Gro Sandvik, the group's flutist. Rebecca was taken by Ms. Sandvik's passionate teaching and her emphasis on music as a means of communication.

Casey Pennington was selected to receive a Lakselaget Scholarship after Sophie Netland found it necessary to decline when her plans were changed unexpectedly. The Scholarship Committee had no problem voting unanimously to award the fourth scholarship to Casey who had impressed the committee members from the beginning. Casey's home institution is the University of Minnesota. She will be moving to Norway in August and attending the BI ('Bedriftøkonomisk Institut' or 'Business Institute') Norwegian School of Management. She will be pursuing graduate level studies of business management at the Oslo BI campus.

Therese Gjendemsjø is in her final year working toward a Master of Law at the University in Bergen. She will be attending Hamline School of Law for the 2009/2010 school year. When she finishes her degree, she would like prosecute criminals and work together with the police. She intends to write her thesis on International Police Cooperation. If she is able to specialize, Therese will focus on solving international child-

pornography rings. She has worked in the prison in Bergen and all of these experiences have made her a woman who swims against the current. Her interest in Minnesota comes from a two week vacation in Isanti, MN when her family visited a former exchange student they had befriended. She visited New York and thought it was fantastic but too big for her liking. She prefers the people and land of Minnesota. Welcome back, Therese!

I think you can see why choosing these scholarship recipients was an honor and a pleasure. Our only regret was that we could not choose more winners and/or offer them more money. We all felt from this experience that as an organization we could improve and grow in the area of donations and fund raising. The selection committee of Marit Malvey, Turid Ormseth, Anne Gillespie Lewis, Marit Kringstad and Beth Detlie (and me) wish them all the best in their endeavors and hope that their experiences are all they are dreaming they will be.