Alex Gander is a recent recipient of a University League Scholarship. Alex grew up in a loving home in southeastern Wisconsin. He graduated from Brookfield East High School in 2011 to attend the University of Minnesota. He studied animal science at the University of Minnesota for 3 years before being accepted to the UW Madison – School of Veterinary Medicine. Alex hopes to graduate from the School of Veterinary Medicine in 2018 with an emphasis in dairy cattle production medicine. His interest in animals began from early family farm experiences in Burlington, Wisconsin and was more intensified by work experience at Cozy Nook Farms in Waukesha, Wisconsin. The great opportunities he was given within the agricultural industry have pushed him this far in life. He can only hope that he can use the skills taught to him through education to help individuals, such as agricultural producers, who give everything they have to support our great state of Wisconsin and the country.

Alex came to UW-Madison to attend one of the highest-ranked Veterinary Medical Schools in the nation. Also, if you plan to have any kind of future in the dairy science industry, UW-Madison should be at the top of your list as it was on Alex’s. Alex says that this University is an excellent place to live and grow. He can’t think of a more welcoming community to pursue an advanced degree in. He is currently studying to receive a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine with an emphasis in dairy production medicine.

Alex thinks that it would be easy to argue that the UW-School of Veterinary Medicine is one of the best programs at UW-Madison. He believes this to be true because he has an extremely small class/school size. Not only does he get to know everyone within the school but in most cases the faculty and even the Dean seem to know each individual student. When you couple receiving a great education along with feeling like you belong and the sense that you were accepted to this program for a reason, it really sets an education up for being something set apart. It has been proven that at any moment, if you are having a bad week or get a few bad test scores back, he can walk into the UW-SVM Office of Academic Affairs and almost immediately be specifically told why he was handpicked for this competitive program.

Alex says that his dad is his role model. His dad has never once stopped encouraging him to succeed throughout his life. Not only is he a strong father figure but he also is a great friend and someone Alex can go to for advice about anything without fear of an ill-fated response. He counts his blessings and thanks the Lord every day that he came from such a loving and caring family.

Once Alex graduates with his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, he hopes to someday open his own food animal exclusive veterinary clinic and he specifically hopes to be working in the ever
growing field of dairy cattle reproductive medicine.

In his spare time, Alex enjoys the outdoors. He grew up hunting a lot and, to this day, he never misses deer hunting season back home. Some people may say that to hunt is contradictory to becoming a veterinarian, but he thinks it provides an adequate balance that we, as well rounded human beings, should experience.

Alex has two older brothers who studied at UW-Madison. Both received a Mechanical Engineering Degrees from this school and one went on to receive his Master’s Degree in Mechanical engineering.

When asked what his favorite place on campus, Alex said, that he is still new to the campus, but at this point he would have to say that his favorite place on campus is the Union Terrace. What other university has the Memorial Union where you can find a place to grab a pitcher of locally brewed beer, relax next to a lake during a warm summer’s sunset, and listen to live music all while still on campus grounds? It certainly is a beautiful spot!

Alex says that this scholarship means the world to him. “If you don’t know, Veterinary Medical School is just as expensive as Human Medical School, all while we tend to come out of 8 years of school making quite a bit less. High student debt and a rough job market has forced many graduating students to take jobs that they may not be as passionate about but it’s necessary to pay the bills. With scholarships such as the one the University League as awarded me, I get one step closer to being freed up from the crushing weight of student loan debt. This allows me the opportunity to pursue my passion without fear of looming financial strain. Your scholarship may be the one that allows me to actively pursue my greatest passions in life through my education”.

Alex had one final comment: “I would just like to take this time to thank the donors for all of their support. Generosity such as yours gives students like me the hope that, someday in the near future, I will be able to pursue the passions that I have been dreaming of since I was a young child running around my grandfather’s dairy farm. Only hoping one day to show the world what I was capable of”.

We are proud that Alex is one of our scholarship recipients.