Alixandra Jacobson- University League Scholarship Recipient

Alixandra Jacobson is a recent University League Scholarship recipient, one of three students that we are supporting this year from the UW-Law School. Alixandra loves the water and always has. She is a swimmer and a SCUBA diver and feels most at home when she is near the ocean. She got her undergraduate degree from Duke University in 2012, where she majored in biology with a concentration in marine biology. After graduation, she worked for a year at the Duke University Marine Laboratory in Beaufort, North Carolina where she studied the population genetics of deep-sea invertebrates. She decided to move back home to Wisconsin to attend law school, and in addition obtain a Master’s degree from the Nelson Institute of Environmental Studies. Alixandra says she misses being so close to the ocean, but all of Madison’s lakes make up for it!!

Alixandra’s father was in the Air Force while she was growing up, so she has lived all over the country: Alaska, Minnesota, California, Colorado, Virginia, North Carolina, and finally Wisconsin. Her parents grew up in Wisconsin, so she has a lot of family here and has always considered herself to be “from” Wisconsin. Alixandra went to high school at Fredericksburg Academy in Fredericksburg, Virginia.

Alixandra has always been a Badger fan! Her Mom is an alumna and has raised Alix to love Bucky Badger and the Madison atmosphere. She is excited to be closer to family after having lived so far away for so many years. Alixandra thinks UW-Madison has both an outstanding law school and environment school; she couldn’t ask for a better combination!

Alixandra is currently a J.D. candidate in the law school (focusing on environmental law) and is also pursuing a M.S. in the Nelson Institute for the Environment (her study area there is Water Resources Management). She is really enjoying the opportunity to pursue a dual degree here at UW-Madison. Alixandra likes the law school, but she really loves science, so it is nice to be able to have a little of both! While studying for Evidence or Constitutional law, she takes a break with a limnology book. One of her favorite things about the Law School was the opportunity to study abroad. Last summer, she took two international law classes in Giessen, Germany. On the weekends, the program took her to Munich and Berlin where she learned about Germany’s legal system firsthand. It was truly an eye-opening experience!

Alixandra’s role model is her mother. She taught her the value of education and has been supportive of her every step of the way. Even when Alixandra lived far away in North Carolina, her mother was never more than a phone call away. Alixandra is very proud to be following in her Mom’s Badger-footsteps!
Alixandra’s dream job would be to use both degrees to work for cleaner water in the United States. She says our oceans, lakes, and other water resources are more valuable than we know, and they deserve protection. Her dream job would be to work at the EPA one day.

In her spare time, Alixandra enjoys Badger Hockey. She goes to every UW-Madison Men’s Hockey game and sits in the front row, if possible. She even saw them win the first ever Big Ten Hockey tournament last year in St. Paul, Minnesota. Alixandra also volunteers at the Henry Vilas Zoo every weekend.

Alixandra is not the first in her family to study at UW-Madison. Her mother studied here also. Her mother has a B.S. from Madison and a M.S. from Alaska-Fairbanks, while her dad has a B.A. from Carthage College, an M.S. from Alaska-Fairbanks, a J.D. from Minnesota, and an L.L.M. from George Washington (Alixandra says she still has a lot of work to do to catch up with all of his degrees!). An L.L.M. is a Master of Law Degree for those who are unaware.

Alixandra’s favorite place on campus is Science Hall. The building has so much history and she is always finding new little study spots. She also likes Babcock Hall…since it’s the best ice cream in the world!

This scholarship means that Alixandra can keep pursuing her dreams. As she states, “A dual degree is not cheap, but I know the education I receive will be worth it in the end. This scholarship has made the road to success a little bit easier for me, and I am very grateful”. Alixandra thanks the University League donors for their support. “I love UW-Madison and my Badgers, and will continue working hard. On Wisconsin!”