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University of Texas at Austin Student Awarded \$36,000 Scholarship by the Environmental Research and Education Foundation

Alexandria, Va. - Doctoral student Susan De Long was awarded the 2006 EREF Scholarship by the Environmental Research and Education Foundation . She was selected for this prestigious fellowship from numerous other national and international candidates including students from: University of Manitoba, Michigan State University, Columbia University, Yale University, Cornell University, and Purdue University.

Susan De Long was selected from among the applicants based on her outstanding scholastic credentials and professorial recommendations. Her research will use gene sequencing for enhancing landfill biodegradation, which supports EREF's mission of advancing scientific understanding of the management of municipal solid waste. De Long completed her undergraduate work at the University of California (UC) at Berkeley in molecular and cell biology as well as environmental science. She was employed as a researcher at UC Berkeley and then Chiron Corporation, before engaging in her master's of science in engineering (M.S.E.) at University of Texas at Austin in environmental engineering.

De Long was raised in suburbs of Los Angeles, where she said, "the smoggy air first inspired my interest in environmental protection." Her focus is the development of molecular biology tools for investigating, monitoring, and optimizing biological treatment processes. She hopes that these tools will help scientists and engineers develop an understanding of what occurs on a molecular scale when bacteria degrade waste materials, and that this knowledge will allow more widespread use of biological treatment processes.

De Long was awarded an unrestricted \$12,000 per year scholarship, renewable for up to two additional years. In choosing its scholars, the foundation's scholarship review committee uses a ten-scale scoring matrix. EREF is currently expanding its scholarship program to be able to award additional funds, including a master's level scholarship. The annual deadline for scholarship applications is July 1. To apply, visit <http://www.erefdn.org/scholar.html>.

Since 1993, the EREF is the only independent foundation in the United States whose sole focus is to increase scientific knowledge of the management of municipal solid wastes.

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