

House of Gordon USA Scholarship Report 2011

I would like to congratulate our 2011 Scholarship recipients, Azure Davis of Richmond, Virginia and Maria Taylor of Farmington, Michigan. These two fine young ladies are passionate about the Highland Dance and have worked hard to not only perfect their own skills but to also help others in their quest to become better dancers. This esprit de corps is in the best tradition of the clans and we are happy to be able to assist them in their efforts with \$500.00 grants toward their instruction expenses.

Interest in our scholarship program is high and we found this year that we need to move the application window to a narrower time frame in order to have the announcements out before the main festival season begins. The application process will open November 1, 2011 with a deadline to be received no later than March 24, 2012. The announcement will go out on Monday, April 2nd in time for the Tartan Day Festivities! This will facilitate our conveners who have a recipient in their area to be able to honor them in person at their local events generating more goodwill in the community. Garth Gordon was able to have a poster honoring Maria Taylor in his tent and have her visit with him, and David Todd was able to have Azure Davis visit with the Gordons at the Williamsburg Festival where we were honored clan. She will also visit with the Gordons at the upcoming Richmond Games where she and her fellow dancers from the Shamrock and Thistle Dance Academy will be hosted at our Gordon Grill. We plan to have Big Check Templates and Posters and Certificates online at the Convener's page for special presentations should the conveners have the opportunity and desire to utilize them.

We have continued the Charles O. Gordon Grade 4 Junior Piper of the Day Award at Grandfather Mountain and this will be an annual award. Young Liam MacDonald was again the winner of this award and should be moving on to Grade 3 competition next year. He was able to use his scholarship money for travel to various competitions and other piping expenses. This year's trophy was a jade acrylic spire engraved with the same logo as last year's obelisk.

Since we have the one standing scholarship at Grandfather we will be limiting our offer to two recipients each year at this time. If we are fortunate enough to grow the membership and receive more donations toward this worthy program we will reassess that number in the future. The scholarship is awarded based on the need and commitment of the applicant toward their art. If you have talented young dancers, pipers, fiddlers, or drummers in your area with a need, please consider helping them to fill out an application and send it along with your and an instructor's endorsement. You may be the angel that young person has been looking for!

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Todd
Scholarship Chair