



User: dlr5f@mtmail.mtsu.edu

Robert Felix Memorial Scholarship Application

**Please note: This application is available for viewing year-round,
but may only be submitted January 1 - April 1.**

If you have any questions, please email dhettinger@treefund.org or call 630-369-8300 x204.

Applicant

Prefix	Mr.
First Name	Lee
Last Name	Rumble

Current Address

Mailing address	366 Dade Drive
Mailing address line 2	
City	Nashville
State/province	TN
Zip/post code	37211
Country	US
Email address	dlr5f@mtmail.mtsu.edu
Phone number	(615) 533-3269

Permanent Address (if different)

Mailing address	
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Mailing address line 2

City

State/province

Zip/post code

Country

Email address

Phone number

Education

University/technical school Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU)

Major(s) B.S. Plant and Soil Science

Minor(s) Biology

Year to date credits earned 80

Cumulative GPA 4.0

Will you be enrolled in the
upcoming semester? Yes

Graduation date 05/09/2016

Scholarships and Awards

List any scholarships and awards, and the year received.

Scholarship 1 Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Honor Transfer
Fellowship, Fall 2014

Scholarship 2 Tennessee Vegetative Management Association (TVMA)
Scholarship, Fall 2014

Scholarship 3 Tennessee Hope Scholarship, Fall 2014, (Non-Traditional Student /
GPA Criteria Met)

Have you applied for a TREE
Fund scholarship before? No

Have you received a TREE Fund
scholarship before? No

If yes, please list the year and
amount of your award.

Extracurricular Activities

Internships

Describe any internships that you have held and note a contact person for each.

Internship 1 No internships, but self-employed since 2001 at Community Tree Preservation (A full-service tree preservation and tree removal company in Nashville, TN).

Tina Caveness (615) 832-2410

Internship 2

Extracurricular Activities

Describe any offices held in professional, community and academic organizations.

Extracurricular 1 PROFESSIONAL:

- International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist (SO-6435A), May 2010

- Self-employed, small business owner since 2001 of a tree preservation and tree removal company in Nashville, TN. Active community involvement. Proud members of Tree Care Industry Association (TCIA) and the Better Business Bureau (BBB) complaint-free since 2003. Blog writer for company website.

Extracurricular 2 COMMUNITY:

- Hands On Nashville Volunteer, Summer 2014

- Nashville State Community College (NSCC) Green Sleeves, School Volunteer Group, Summer 2014

- Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Plant and Soil Science Club Member, Fall 2014

Extracurricular 3 ACADEMIC:

- Nashville State Community College (NSCC) -- Completed A.S. in Horticulture (graduated summa cum laude), Spring 2014

- Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) 1 of only 15 accepted Honors Transfer Fellows, Fall 2014

- Currently working on an undergraduate thesis "A Survey of Wounding Frequency Among Trees found in Urban and Forested Environments," Fall 2014

- Received undergraduate, school-funded grant (URECA) from MTSU in support of my thesis project to also be presented at MTSU Scholars Week upon completion.

Please describe your reasons for pursuing your chosen career, your goals and objectives, and why you should be chosen for this scholarship.

For the past fourteen years, I have shown up to my aerial office located at heights nearing 100-feet. I am an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist, and I professionally climb trees for a living. Soils, plants, trees, and insects all excite and capture my attention. Since 2001, I have been self-employed alongside my family operating a tree preservation and tree removal company in Nashville, TN. We sought to change the face of arboriculture through education and the implementation of modern techniques.

Over a decade ago, I would never have expected to be in this role, but now I feel that it has better prepared my mind to become more absorbent of ideas about a field that I instinctively love. Plants never cease to amaze me, and that is why I have chosen to study them rather than chasing after a random career. By utilizing fourteen years of knowledge gained in the arboricultural field, my six-year arborist certification, a two-year horticulture degree, and a true love of plants and nature, as I now work to complete my B.S. in Plant and Soil Science, I know I will always be around work that can be educationally challenging, while remaining exhilarating.

My college career began at Nashville State Community College (NSCC) at the age of thirty, where I sought an A.S. in Horticulture. After graduating summa cum laude in May 2014, I discovered that while I had taken the scenic trail to college enrollment, I was better prepared for my time there. Sound organizational work and life skills helped me to study and better understand educational concepts. It was also during this time, I began to help others and say “yes” more often. Soon, I was forming large study groups, I began volunteering with NSCC Green Sleeves club (a campus-based initiative for a more sustainable campus), Hands on Nashville, and I had enrolled in the Honors College at NSCC to begin my first research projects with professors.

Now, as a second-semester junior working to complete a B.S. in Plant and Soil Science at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU), I have continued my goal of not only educating myself, but also, of helping others. At MTSU, I was admitted as 1 of only 15 Honors Transfer Fellows which requires full time enrollment, completion of an undergraduate thesis, and the continuation of honors courses throughout my degree. For my thesis project, I have chosen to survey tree wounding frequencies among trees found in urban and forested environments throughout ten sites in middle Tennessee. I seek to uncover whether exposure to anthropogenic activities reduces overall tree health. I have also continued my volunteer work, and joined the MTSU Plant and Soil Science club to remain active outside of the classroom. What I discovered is that helping others is actually offering me the greater benefit. For this reason, I plan to make full use of my skills and my education to continue to promote awareness, support, and recognition for the wonders of the natural world around us.

At MTSU, I am working to become a more knowledgeable arborist, horticulturists, and now, plant and soil scientist. I am learning not

only about plants, but all of the symbiotic relationships that exist in our natural world. A degree in a field that is continually evolving interests me especially because it will best benefit those who have diversified their talents and are willing to adapt old thoughts into new techniques, just as our tree preservation company has done.

My educational endeavors have not been easy while continuing to work. I have life skills that were drawn out of necessity, and now education has become one of those skills. Having worked full time since the age of eighteen, as I entered MTSU, I had to make the difficult decision to enroll full time and reduce my working hours to 20-25 hours per week. My new routine has taken me to places that I thought were unlocked by financial gain, when in fact, they are unlocked from the personal hardships that I encounter as I progress through school by learning new things. The work is hard, but the sense of self-accomplishment is so much more enjoyable than any other form of reward that I have found. For this, I see no reason to stop learning now.

File Uploads

Please upload the following documents:

Current transcript

Proof of ISA student membership

Letters of Recommendation

You must submit three letters of recommendation with your application, one of which must be from your academic advisor. If you have already received letters of recommendation, you may upload them below. If you would like to request letters from your recommenders, you may return to the main menu and select to add recommendation requests. This will allow you to send requests to your contacts to upload letters of recommendation.

All letters of recommendation are due April 1.

1st letter of recommendation

2nd letter of recommendation

Advisor letter of recommendation

How did you hear about this scholarship?

Word of mouth
Other

Applications will be scored on the following scale:

- GPA (0-20)
- Essay (0-30)
- 1st letter of recommendation (0-10)
- 2nd letter of recommendation (0-10)
- Advisor letter of recommendation (0-20)
- Potential for continuing in arboriculture or urban forestry (0-10)

**Your application will not be available for editing after it has been submitted.
Please review your application for completion before submission.**

