

## The Sylvie Utick Memorial Academic Scholarship

### Sylvie Bélanger Utick



Sylvie Bélanger Utick was born in Montreal, Canada on August 30, 1955 to the late Louis Bergeron and Thérèse Fortier Bélanger. She graduated from Ecole Polyvalente Daniel Johnson High School in 1973 and fashion design school a year later prior to embarking upon her career in Montreal's extensive fashion industry. Sylvie worked as a pattern maker, taking the clothing designer's sketches or drawings and turning them into the shapes and sizes needed to allow the fabric to be cut and sewn into the finished product.

Sylvie met her future husband Fred on a sailboat cruise while vacationing with friends in Atlantic City, New Jersey. After marriage, the newlyweds moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota to start a family. In 1979, the young family moved to Macon, Georgia when Fred's company relocated there. The change to a Southern lifestyle was quite a shock to a young, French speaking Canadian, but she survived and made many lifelong friends there while caring for Fred and their two daughters, Josye and Elysabeth. While always a Canadian at heart, Sylvie became a United States citizen on April 8, 1999. The warm Southern climate sparked her interest in tennis which in turn found her competing throughout America. Known for her exceptional baking and cooking skills, Sylvie began her career of 15 years in the food service industry once her children were in high school. She worked at the Bear's Den, a local favorite eatery, and at Mercer University. She retired as a manager of Macon State College's coffee shop in 2008 after which she began another career in Gastonia, North Carolina as grandmother to her first grandchild, Xavier.

Sylvie became ill in 2010 and it was discovered she had a very aggressive type of brain tumor. She underwent surgery followed by months of radiation and chemotherapy. Sylvie kept active in spite of everything, vacationing with Fred in the Bahamas in December, 2010 and in Las Vegas in September, 2011. Her love of people and baking was evident when in the midst of chemotherapy she took time to bake a baby shower cake for one of the chemo nurses treating her. In this world of so many dark clouds, Sylvie's life was a beam of sunshine. She was a lover of people, pets, especially big cats, and plants. She was a rescuer of strays, and a joy to all who knew her playful sense of humor. She kept her husband laughing for all of their years together. She was a Master Gardener whose love of plants filled her homes with color and life. She could sew, cook, bake, and play tennis. Just to be sure she could, she painted and constructed stained glass art. Sylvie passed on February 11, 2012.

Following Sylvie's death, Fred, Josye and Elysabeth set about to create an educational scholarship to help a deserving young woman with limited financial resources begin her postsecondary studies. Working in concert with the Master Gardeners of Central Georgia, a regional 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, the Utick family established The Sylvie Utick Memorial Academic Scholarship to assist the recipient with costs associated with her freshman year of college education.

## **The Sylvie Utick Memorial Academic Scholarship**

The Sylvie Utick Memorial Academic Scholarship recognizes a graduating female high school senior who possesses an excellent academic record and is interested in pursuing a career in biology, botany, ecology, agronomy, horticulture, landscape design, environmental, or related science. This award is granted based on scholastic achievement as well as financial need. The recipient will receive a one-time award of \$5,000 in 2024.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. An applicant must be a female legal resident of the state of Georgia from one of the following counties: Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, or Twiggs;
2. An applicant must be a candidate for graduation from high school in the 2023-2024 academic year and must have a grade point average (GPA) at or above 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Also, she must have been accepted at an accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning located within the United States for the 2024-2025 academic year as a full-time student;
3. An applicant who possesses or expects to receive, a full scholarship that includes tuition, fees, room and board, etc. for one or more years is ineligible for this scholarship.

### **FINANCIAL NEED:**

Qualifying applicants will have one or more of the following:

1. Substantial unmet need;
2. Special financial circumstances;
3. Low Expected Family Contributions (EFC) and family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) from the FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR).

### **PREFERENCES:**

1. Preference will be given to an applicant having an interest in an environmental or related science: biology, botany, ecology, agronomy, horticulture, landscape design, and so on.
2. Preference will be given to an applicant who is the first in her family to be accepted into an institution of higher learning.

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### PROCEDURE:

A selection panel will determine the award recipient based on **scholastic achievement** (GPA, and SAT or ACT scores; Advanced Placement / International Baccalaureate / Honors / Dual Enrollment courses completed; scholastic competitions, activities, and awards won); and **financial need** (EFC and AGI). Applicants must also complete a short personal statement outlining their interests and educational and career goals.

The applicant must provide **all** of the following:

1. Completed Part A of the application, signed in the appropriate places;
2. Copy of a current valid photo ID confirming legal residence in one of the counties in the state of Georgia listed under "Eligibility (1)";
3. Typed listing of the following, divided by category:
  - a. Advanced Courses: List all AP, IB, Honors, and Dual Enrollment courses completed from 9<sup>th</sup> grade to the present, as well as any such courses in which currently enrolled;
  - b. Scholastic Competitions, Activities, & Awards: List all scholastic competitions (science and engineering fairs, math competitions, social studies fairs, 4-H events, Future Farmers of America competitions, etc.) entered during high school and awards received, indicating the year(s) of participation. Also indicate if the applicant is a member of the National Honor Society and/or Beta Club, and years of membership;
4. A copy of the FAFSA SAR;
5. A typed statement indicating the cost(s) of the college that the applicant plans to attend in 2024-2025 (tuition, room and board, fees, etc.);
6. Financial aid award information received from the college that the applicant plans to attend in 2024-2025 (grants, scholarships, named awards, etc. but **not** loans offered);
7. Completed Part B of the Application from the high school counselor or registrar together with an official transcript of all courses taken through the applicant's first semester of the senior year in a sealed and signed envelope;
8. A letter of recommendation from a teacher, pastor, or other notable community person that addresses the quality of work, level of maturity and interpersonal skills, and potential for success in post-secondary studies. The letter must be signed and include the printed name, position, and current contact information of the writer. The writer must place the letter in an envelope, seal it and sign again across the seal before returning it to the applicant for inclusion in the application packet;
9. A typed personal statement of no more than 500 words outlining the applicant's interests and educational and career goals.

Interview:

Should there be more than one applicant whose qualifications meet all of the requirements contained herein and all appear to be equally deserving of this scholarship, applicants may be required to appear for an interview with one or more members of the scholarship committee.

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## PART A

To be completed by the **applicant**. Please print or type.

### 1. Applicant Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

High School Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Parent/Legal Guardian Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

It is understood that this scholarship is awarded to a female graduating senior based on high school **scholastic achievement** (GPA, and SAT or ACT scores; AP/IB/Honors/Dual Enrollment courses completed; and scholastic competitions, activities, and awards won), and **financial need**. During the 2024-2025 academic year, the applicant must be a full-time student at an accredited post-secondary institution of higher learning located within the United States. The applicant affirms that all information contained in this application and all supporting documents are truthful and accurate to the best of her knowledge. Any willful misrepresentation or falsification of facts will make the applicant ineligible to receive this scholarship or any other MGCG-funded scholarship in this or any subsequent year.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Legal Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**Both signatures are required**

## The Sylvie Utick Memorial Academic Scholarship

### **PART B**

To be completed by the **high school counselor or registrar**. Please print or type.

Name of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA (on a 4.0 scale) through the first semester of the 2023-2024 school year: \_\_\_\_\_

SAT and/or ACT Results: (If this information is printed as a part of the student's official transcript that you are including with this Part B, you may state that in the space below rather than list the scores again in this space.)

Is this student a candidate for graduation during the 2023-2024 academic year? \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
School E-mail Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
School Phone Number

**Note:** Please place the most recent official transcript of grades through first semester of the applicant's senior year and this completed form in an envelope, seal it, sign your name across the seal, and return the sealed envelope to the applicant for inclusion with the completed application packet. Thank you.

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The entire application (Items #1-9 on the previous page) must be mailed or personally delivered in a single manila envelope, **and received no later than April 19, 2024** to the following address:

UGA Cooperative Extension, HOUSTON County  
MGCG Scholarship Committee  
The Sylvie Utick Memorial Academic Scholarship  
2030 Kings Chapel Road  
Perry, GA 31069

**Note:** The scholarship recipient will be announced no later than **May 10, 2024**. The award **must** be used within the **2024-2025 academic year** for educational expenses billed by the institution (tuition, fees, on-campus room and board, etc.). **The award money is mailed directly to the recipient's school upon written verification of the recipient's full-time status.** It is the award recipient's responsibility to ensure that the scholarship committee receives this verification **postmarked no later than October 1, 2024** before any money is paid. Failure to do so will result in forfeiture of the award.

Please e-mail any questions to [scholarships@mgcg.org](mailto:scholarships@mgcg.org) . Place "Utick Scholarship" in the subject line.