

SWEDISH  
COUNCIL  
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## 2017 SCA Glenn T. Seaborg Science Scholar

Jay Barnes, President of Bethel University, has an impish side. Imagine being a college senior, about to graduate at the end of the week, and the morning before you are to give your Honors Presentation you are summoned to the President's Office without explanation. At best, you would be a bit confused or curious as to why the president wanted to see you; at worst, you would wonder if some paperwork had not be properly filed or you needed four more credits to graduate. That could be nerve-racking!

But it was all good news! As Aeli Olson was ushered into the President's Private Dining Room, not only were President Barnes and his wife there, but also Provost Deb Harless, and the 14 Bethel faculty members involved in Aeli's remarkable academic achievements. Each had a broad smile as President Barnes informed Aeli that she had been



*Aeli Olson learns from President Barnes that she is going to SIYSS. Photo: Richard Peterson*

selected as the SCA Glenn T. Seaborg Science Scholar for 2017. It was clear from the look on her face that she had no idea of what was going on when she walked into the room. Once informed that she would be one of three Americans participating in the Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar (SIYSS) next December, she was thrilled!

The SCA Glenn T. Seaborg Science Scholarship is awarded annually by the Swedish Council of America (SCA) to one outstanding student within the natural sciences selected through nominations made by the college presidents of the six Swedish Heritage College members of SCA. As the awardee, Aeli will be among 25 other high-achieving young scientists from around the world participating in this prestigious academic seminar sponsored by the Royal Institute of Technology and the Nobel Foundation. While in Stockholm, the participants will visit several universities and laboratories, meet with Nobel Laureates and make presentations on their own research to large audiences of fellow scientists. These activities are all part of Nobel



*SCA Board Chair John Hasselberg, SCA Executive Director Gregg White, President Jay Barnes, Aeli Olson, Provost Deb Harless. Photo: John Hasselberg*

Week, which culminates with the SIYSS participants attending the Nobel Award Ceremonies and Banquet.

Aeli is a native of Blue Earth, Minnesota, and a recent graduate of Bethel University of Arden Hills, Minnesota. She graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. degree in Physics, a B.A. degree in Chemistry, and a minor in Biology. Aeli's academic interests go beyond her dedication to the natural sciences, as she also values her liberal arts education for her ability to explore philosophy, anthropology, and sociology.

Besides attending the Stockholm International Youth Science Seminar in December, Aeli's future plans include pursuing her Ph.D. in Biomedical Sciences and completing her thesis on Nuclear Medicine. She is a well-deserving recipient of the SCA Glenn T. Seaborg Science Scholarship and a truly remarkable young scientist!

### The Swedish Heritage College Members of SCA:

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