

GROWERTALKS

GT in Brief

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Dr. P. Allen Hammer Scholarship Recipient Announced

Jennifer Zurko



The first-ever recipient of the Dr. P. Allen Hammer Scholarship was announced as Michael Del Valle, Jr., an undergraduate student studying horticulture at the University of Georgia. The \$5,000 award is presented in recognition of exemplary academic achievement in the field of horticulture and is intended to support the next generation of floriculture students towards the completion of their horticulture-related academic pursuits.

The scholarship, founded in 2016 by Dümme Orange in acknowledgement of the contributions Dr. P. Allen Hammer has made to the floriculture industry, was awarded based on a variety of indicators.

“We selected Michael for his academic performance, floriculture experience, UGA Horticulture Club participation, Pi Alpha Xi National Honor Society membership and career goals, all of which aligned with the intent of the scholarship to support an outstanding university student in the field of floriculture,” said Dr. Hammer, who added it was an honor to congratulate Michael on this achievement. “I sincerely hope this award makes his senior year at UGA just a little easier, allowing him to focus on his education and preparing him to join the industry as a respected and successful professional.”

Michael, who’s worked at the UGA Horticulture Research Farm during the summer, plans to find a job in either a local production facility or garden center after graduation.

“Ultimately, I would like to purchase land and begin a fresh cut-flower growing operation,” he shared. “I am so honored to have been chosen as the first recipient of the Dr. P. Allen Hammer Scholarship. The news of this great achievement could not have come at a more opportune time in my life as I’m finishing up my final year in college and preparing for the financial responsibilities that will come post-graduation. I cannot thank the committee at Dümme Orange enough for their generosity.” **GT**