

Keeping the Legacy Going: Third-Generation Horologist Awarded Greenwood Grant

By James Sprague

A third-generation horologist has the goal of keeping her family's horological legacy alive and recently received some help from AWCI toward that goal.

In late September, the AWCI Education, Library and Museum (ELM) Trust awarded its 2025 Harold J. and Marie Borneman Greenwood Memorial Fund Grants, of \$2,000 each, to three watchmaking students from Paris Junior College in Paris, Texas; Gem City College in Quincy, Illinois; and the North Seattle College Watch Technology Institute in Seattle, Washington.

The annual grants are possible due to the Harold J. and Marie Borneman Greenwood Memorial Fund of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, which was set up to assist watchmaking students. The foundation distributes the interest earned by the fund annually to the AWCI ELM Trust, which in turn distributes those funds in the form of grants to watchmaking students who are enrolled at AWCI Research and Education Council (REC) schools who apply for the grant, and are recommended by their REC instructor based on either financial need, exemplary student achievement, or both, as determined by the instructor.

This year, the ELM Trust received \$5,341 from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation for grants, and with AWCI's ELM Trust kicking in another \$659 to bring the total to \$6,000, three grants of \$2,000 apiece were awarded to assist deserving students with their tuition and other needs.



Jenna Mattson, AWCI student member, watchmaking student at Paris Junior College, and one of three 2025 Harold J. and Marie Borneman Greenwood Memorial Fund Grant awardees.



Jenna Mattson,
one of the 2025
Greenwood
Grant awardees.



The late David
Mattson, CMW,
Jenna's grandfather.

One of those students receiving the 2025 Harold J. and Marie Borneman Greenwood Memorial Fund Grant, Jenna Mattson of Paris Junior College, is not a stranger to the world of horology. If anything, it is a constant thread in her life, due in part to her grandfather and father.

"Clocks and watches have always been a part of my life," Jenna said. "My father runs a clock and watch sales and repair shop in Colorado Springs. It was started by his father and has been open for over 50 years. I grew up in that shop, spending days running around the store hiding behind grandfather clocks, getting to sit with my dad and watch as he serviced a watch, and then walking over to the gas station to get chocolate milk and donuts with him."

That shop, the Tick Tock Shop, was opened in 1974 by Jenna's grandfather, late AWC member David Mattson, CMW, and now is in the hands of her father, Jonathan Mattson, who is also an AWC member. Going strong for 51 years, the shop boasts the largest collection of clocks in the state of Colorado.

For Jenna, ever since she was a child, the shop has always been a wonderland for her and her creative juices.

"I have worked there since I was young, starting with cleaning display cases to eventually repairing clocks and working full time," she recalled. "I remember that from a young age I was interested in how things worked but was also creative and liked making



Jenna, as a child, helping her father, Jonathan, at his workbench in the Tick Tock Shop while her grandfather, David, works at his bench in the background. The photo shows the three generations of Mattson watchmakers and AWC members.



Jenna Mattson
working at the bench
during class at Paris
Junior College.

tiny things. When I was in grade school and people would ask me what I wanted to do when I grew up, I would tell them I wanted to take over the family business. That was far before I had even touched a movement."

But, like many of us, as time went on and she entered high school, Jenna's interests changed somewhat, and she found herself engrossed in horticulture. Stops at the University of Colorado and Pikes Peak State College, following her high school graduation, along with a job as a student instructor at Universal Kempo Karate in Colorado Springs, gave the impression that Jenna would pursue other interests than horology.

She still had a toe dipped in the horological realm, though.

"While I took a few classes at the local college, I was fixing clocks at the shop," Jenna said. "Then when one of the watchmakers left, my dad jokingly said that I should go to watchmaking school. That got me thinking. It sounded interesting and a whole new challenge compared to clocks."

That got her wheels spinning, and the next thing she knew, Jenna was on her way to Texas.

"So, we started looking at schools and found Paris Junior College. We toured (it), I applied and moved here (in 2024)."

Since then, she has been a student in PJC's Horology Technology program, under the direction of instructor Garrin Frazee, and so far, it has been a wonderful experience for her.

"I think it's amazing that I get to go to school and it doesn't feel like school. The more I learn, the more there is that I want to learn," Jenna said. "I am a collector of knowledge and skills, and I want to absorb as much as I possibly can about watchmaking. This scholarship (will) help me to continue acquiring knowledge here at school, and beyond."

Frazee had nothing but praise for the third-generation horologist in his program, and attested to her desire to learn all she can regarding watchmaking.

"(She) is an excellent student with a natural aptitude for both watchmaking and learning. She has too many positive attributes to list, but among them are intense focus, dedication, and teachability," Frazee said. "Additionally, she is among the most ambitious students in the program, staying after class is over and always showing up as soon as the door opens on Fridays to participate in optional classes and lessons. Jenna has an intense passion for learning and soaks up every bit of information that she can."

It is a passion Frazee notes is not common among students, in any discipline, who are Jenna's age.

"Among my students, it is rare to find the type of focus and dedication that Jenna possesses. Many students (especially those in her age range) are easily distracted or are too quick to strike up a conversation when they are bored. Not Jenna," he continued. "Jenna remains focused on the task in front of her at all times, and when she is waiting for an instructor to provide feedback, she works on another project or practices a different watchmaking skill."

"Jenna refuses to waste a second of time in the classroom, as she understands how valuable it is. Instead, she focuses entirely on the opportunities to learn and grow that are available to her. Jenna is the type of student every teacher hopes to have in their class. She is respectful, teachable, and humble. She never hesitates to ask questions and always takes thorough notes. She owns her actions and always takes accountability for her mistakes, which are few and far between. Jenna holds herself to standards of excellence and does not accept sub-par work from herself. I have no doubt she will have a long and successful career as an excellent watchmaker, and I know she has the potential to give back to the industry in meaningful ways," Frazee concluded.

One of those meaningful ways Jenna plans to give back to the industry is her plan to keep the Tick Tock Shop—her family's legacy—going years into the future. She's already made her watchmaking education experience a family affair, joining AWCI as a student member and attending the past two AWCI Fall Symposiums with her father Jonathan and mother Joanna.

"Our store, the Tick Tock Shop, is now the last brick and mortar clock and watch repair shop in the Colorado Springs area. Our customers rely on us to repair their timepieces, and they appreciate the personal touch that a family business offers," Jenna said. "Because society has moved to big companies and self-service, mom and pop shops are disappearing, and it is rare to get that kind of personal interaction and service anywhere else."

"As a third-generation watchmaker, it is important to me to keep the legacy that my grandfather



The Mattson family—Joanna, Jenna and Jonathan—during the 2024 AWCI Fall Symposium at AWCI headquarters.

started. In order to keep that legacy, I need to bring the shop more up to date in its practices," she concluded. "Some of the ways I am doing that is learning the current industry standards at school and hopefully get specific brand training so that we can keep more of our work in-house. This scholarship (will) be a huge help for me to get the training that I need to meet more of our customers' needs to the standard of modern watchmaking."

Given her passion for the craft, along with her determination to learn all she can about it, it would be a safe bet that Jenna Mattson will not only keep her family's horological legacy alive, but also continue to provide the personal touch the Tick Tock Shop has for its customers in Colorado Springs for many years to come.