

Dear Mr. Clemons
National Association of Sign Supply Distributors
5024-R Campbell Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21236-5974

Once again I want to express my gratitude to the National Association of Sign Supply Distributors for their generous support of my educational endeavors. Earlier today I took my last final as a senior at Northwestern University, I and now look forward to my graduation next week. I will receive my degree with a major in advanced physics and a minor in chemistry. I finished my undergraduate work with an overall GPA of 3.7 out of 4.0, and I made the Dean's List twice.

I would like to share some of my experiences from the past academic year with you. Without question my senior year was the most challenging academically. My course load included six advanced physics courses, two graduate courses in chemistry, an Austrian literature course, and a senior level math class. In addition to my academic schedule, I did research under the auspices of Professor Chad A. Mirkin at International Institute for Nanotechnology in Department of Chemistry. The research involved using metal nanoparticles conjugated to DNA in order to regulate gene expression, ultimately with the goal of controlling cancer cells. There is a high probability my peers and I will be publishing our work, and I will be a second author. Off campus I volunteered every Thursday morning for four hours at the Community Health Clinic, a free clinic on Chicago's north side. The clinic offers services to those who cannot afford healthcare through the normal channels. Of course, the year was not all work; I found time to practice playing guitar, workout at the gym, and play intramural basketball. Our intramural team won the A Division championship.

In April I received word I was awarded both the Deutscher Akademischer Austausch Dienst (DAAD) Graduate Scholarship and the Fulbright Fellowship to continue doing chemistry research in Germany. I declined the DAAD Fellowship and accepted the Fulbright. With the Fulbright Grant I will be doing research similar to what I did in Professor Mirkin's lab as an undergraduate. I will be doing the research in Professor Ulrich Simon's lab at RWTH Aachen University, in Aachen Germany. I will be leaving for Germany in the last part of August to begin the fellowship.

I am hoping upon my return from Germany in a year from now that I will have been accepted to medical school. Thus my summer will be consumed completing applications to medical schools for the 2009-2010 year as well as preparing for my sojourn to Germany.

My sincerest thanks for your support


Brandon Cole Lane