

Winners of the 2003/2004 Richard E. Bleil Scholarship

Every year, I donate \$1,500 to DSU to be given to three students at \$500 each. The requirements are simple; be a physical science major, and, preferably, in your third or fourth year of the program. Unfortunately, last year, only two students applied for the scholarship.

The bad news for the unknown third student who would have won it last year is good news for the physical science majors this year, because that un-awarded scholarship carried over. This year, we have not three, but FOUR winners of the scholarship. In alphabetical order, they are John Fisher, Molly Hansen, Andrew Ohotto and Joe

Terwilliger. Of these four, only two are in their third year.

John Fisher has very rapidly become the most active student in the physical science program. Technically, he only completed his first year of the program, but he started a year earlier as my laboratory assistant and has done a great job at helping keep me in line. His interests are varied, but seems especially interested, currently, in Fullerenes, the new class of soccer-ball style carbon clusters. We have been discussing a



project that incorporates quantum-mechanical modeling of these substances and could include research on the newly acquired fluorimeter.

Molly Hansen is in her third year of the program, and has won the award twice before. It is difficult to pin down her exact interests in the program as they have changed over the years, but she has always been great at volunteering and helping out when extra help is needed. She is most definitely doing her part at promotion of the physical science program in the private sector as she is currently working in an industrial quality assurance lab (which is, for all intensive purposes, an analytical lab in a larger plant). Even without finishing the physical science program, she has earned her employers respect to such an extent that they are comfortable leaving her in alone in the lab as her fellow workers go on vacation, and I am convinced they would hire her as a full time chemist even now.

Andrew Ohotto is the other third year student to win the award and has claimed it in the past as well. Andrew is perhaps the most difficult student to “pin down” as he tends to keep to himself quite often. None the less, he has made it clear that he wants to pursue a higher degree in forensic scientist, and is currently being pursued by the top Ph.D. granting institution in the nation in this field. I have long maintained that the physical science program is a doorway to just about anything else you might want to pursue; it is very exciting to see this statement realized when students like Andrew are so actively pursued. Great job, Andrew, at building academic ties between our program and other institutions.

Joe Terwilliger is our newest friend to earn the scholarship. He just completed the first year of the program, but, sadly, it might be difficult to see him around much as a

scheduling conflict will prevent him from taking the traditional first semester/second year chemistry course, Organic chemistry. However, he will have lots of opportunities to take more chemistry and physics courses in the second semester, so keep your eye out for him. As sad as it is to say this, it is not clear to me where his immediate interests lie in the field, but this is one of the great things about the physical science program; you really don't have to settle on one field too soon. He will have lots of time to figure out what it is, exactly, that has drawn him to this field, and I look forward to working this out with him.

Congratulations to all of our winners of this prestigious scholarship.