

August 26, 2009

Sentience Foundation
100 Spruce Street
Freehold, NJ 07728

Sentience Foundation Board Members,

I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of the Brain Camp in July. I realize that the Sentience Foundation is responsible for the funding that is given to the program specifically, from the generous donation by Arthur C. Warren. My experience at the camp was better than I had ever imagined. I learned about the research on the brain on many levels, from anatomy to current research and ending with a group experiment. As part of a group, I worked side-by-side under the supervision of Professor Gretchen Gotthard.

I appreciate the opportunity I was given this summer. I was able to work with professors, perform research and experience science at work. My understanding of the subject has changed completely since this experience. Before, my knowledge of Biology and Psychology came from my learning associated with textbooks and classrooms. But, at the camp I was able to delve into a true learning experience through hands-on experience. In the morning I went to lectures on neuroscience. I felt like a whole new world was being opened up for me. All the professors at the camp were so incredibly intelligent, creative and intriguing!

Every afternoon we worked in small groups under the supervision of a professor, given personal attention and feeling as though we were part of a team or community. I came to know not only my supervisor but also the other students who worked closely with her through the year. I felt very comfortable speaking with many professors associated with the neuroscience program at Muhlenberg. At the end of the lectures I found myself discussing information of what we had just been taught, asking questions freely. One specific time, I remember going to lunch and having the opportunity to continue discussions on the subject even after the professor had just finished lecturing for the last hour. I had been on the edge of my seat because of my interest in the subject and then to make it even more unique I had the opportunity to speak with her afterwards. It was an amazing experience! I will never forget my week at Muhlenberg. I know this experience will help me grow as a student. Sometimes you find yourself so interested in something that you change...you change as a student and you change as person.

Sincerely,

Sarah

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