

1301 Spring Street, Apt 501
Madison, WI 53715
(401) 952-1297
September 4, 2016

Dear Ray Ciezki,

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude as the 2016-2017 recipient of the Bob Mehn Scholarship Fund. It is an honor to receive this scholarship for the second year in a row.

I grew up in a family of five children in Cranston, Rhode Island. Growing up, I excelled in problem solving, math, and art. My art always centralized around crafting something three dimensional, rather than traditional drawing or painting. The fact that this combination of math and creative, three dimensional thinking is essential in Mechanical Engineering is the main reason I decided to pursue it after my junior year of high school. Besides math, I was interested in all my academic subjects, and by the end of high school, I was ranked in the top 1% of my class.

Since arriving at UW-Madison, I have frequently been asked why I chose to attend a school so far from home. When I was in the process of researching colleges, UW-Madison came up frequently for its superb engineering programs. I looked into the programs here a little more and discovered the abundance of resources for engineering students. After deciding to attend UW-Madison, I was teased for going somewhere that, according to my peers on the East Coast, has more cows than people. Still, I'm glad I've come. Madison is a beautiful city, and I've already learned so much in my tenure here. It's hard to believe that after this year, I will be moving onto the next experience!

This year I am a senior in Mechanical Engineering and plan to graduate this coming Spring. I am still deciding on whether I will pursue a graduate degree or delve directly into industry. I will be taking the GREs soon, and then applying to jobs and a few graduate schools. If I go to graduate school, I want to study self-folding polymers, which have a wide variety of applications, from nanobiology to space satellites. My experience working with Professor Osswald in the Polymer Engineering Center will certainly help me if I decide to go the graduate school route. This summer, I have had a mostly HVAC and manufacturing focused internship at ACS Group in New Berlin. Interestingly enough, many of the machines we manufacture are used for plastic molding machines. This experience has really helped me reach a better understanding of what the world of industry is like in contrast to academia, which will ultimately help me make a decision about my future career path. Overall, no matter what I choose to do, I want to maximize my own utility and help humanity as much as I can with the skills I am learning now.

Once again, thank you for supporting my college career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Darcy Davis". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Darcy Davis