

Dear Mr. Gilroy,

My whole life, I've looked down and up more than straight ahead. When I walked down the beach with my mom, while she collected seashells, I was pretending every little crease in the fine sand was a new boulevard for me to turn onto. When they carried me on their back down the brick streets of Charleston, I meticulously counted the rows and columns, studying the checkered patterns of moss and ballast. Watching out the window, on trips short and long, my eyes always gravitated to the sky, and its rippling clouds and pale blue sheet always stared back. My whole life, I've been looking for things to study, map, plot, chart, and *understand*.

In just 5 short weeks, my long-awaited journey begins to harness my curiosity for good. I will be majoring in meteorology at the University of Oklahoma, while also minoring in electrical engineering. I hope to have a career in severe weather forecasting, RADAR research, or something that also combines technology, creativity, and data science. Through my career, I hope to be of service to both the field of meteorology and society as a whole by improving forewarning and meteorological understanding.

I have an immense amount of gratitude for your committee granting me this award. That financial burden being removed from me and my family's shoulders is something for which I am incredibly grateful. To be able to carry out my dream with this much less of a burden leaves me incredibly thankful for your support.

Thank you,



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7/4/2023 - Happy Independence Day!