

1/9/18

Dear Shark Anglers,

Having complete my first semester of college, I know for sure I have made the right choice in choosing to attend the University of Miami and selecting my field of study. I am double majoring in marine science and biology with a minor in math within the Rosenstiel School of Atmospheric and Marine Science. This semester, I earned straight A's in all of my classes except one. My favorite course was a 1 credit class that delved into readings of shark immunology, looking at the comparative biology of the immune system in sharks. In this class, I had the opportunity to gain more knowledge about the use of sharks as a model organism for human health, additionally, the ways in which cancer could be treated by adapting a rare form of antibody found only in sharks.

Outside of academics, I am a member of the largest club on campus, the scuba club. Through this club, I became certified as an advanced open water diver. The scuba club affords its members the opportunity to go diving once a week if you desire to do so. I have already gone diving about seven times and enjoyed every single one. I am also a part of the aquarium club, which takes care of and maintains the tanks around campus. Another club I have joined is called rho rho rho, which is the honor society for marine science that has trips all throughout the year. Sports wise, I am in the tennis club and the Ultimate Frisbee club. This upcoming spring will be the season for ultimate frisbee. I have tournaments all around the south and one in Las Vegas. Currently, I am in the process of applying for an internship with the Shark Research Club, which is a highly competitive club that performs shark tagging nearly everyday and records various data from sharks in the area. To work with sharks is my dream! I have been fortunate to have the opportunity to work with and raise sharks in high school at MAST and now in college at the University of Miami I plan on continuing to conduct my research on sharks.

I would like you to know how much I appreciate that you selected me as a recipient of your scholarship. I am honored by your support. I believe I am making the best of my experience at college and taking full advantage of the opportunities before me at the University of Miami. I look forward to communicating with you and I will keep in touch.

Best regards,
Konnor Payne