



Brian Cook  
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Speech and Language Disabilities  
Class of 2014

Dear SUNY Cortland Donors:

It is with great appreciation that I write this letter to you. I am a second-year recipient of the Judith Smith Keleman Memorial Scholarship. In order for you to have better insight on what kind of first year college student and person I am, I would like to share with you some of my college experiences.

I embraced my first year at SUNY Cortland. I was one of the few freshman to be selected for "off campus housing." This not only enhanced my independence as a college student but allowed me to become more organized and dependent upon myself. Coming from such a diverse high school in the Bronx, I joined the African American club since many students who attend SUNY Cortland are from my high school and are African American. Early in the year, there were some negative comments made to my roommate (African American) and I therefore I felt the need to educate those who hold a prejudice views toward others.

I joined the Speech Language club, of course, and was extremely involved in fund raising events and future curriculum. I participated in the Relay for Life and felt such a sense of satisfaction that I plan on participating every year. Just for the pure fun of it, I joined the broom hockey league and we came in second place; not bad for just starting out. On a more serious note, I was recognized by my peers (off campus) as the freshmen student who maintained the highest average. I was also selected for the Dean's list. My GPA for the first year of college was 3.7.

I realize that I am the minority in my department because the Speech Language Pathology field is predominately women. However, I believe this will just make me more successful. Children often look for a male role model and I hope to become that strong male figure for them while teaching them communication skills. This summer I am taking two classes at a community college, Psychology and Biology, to expedite my academic career. I am also working at a neighborhood restaurant. I plan on shadowing a SLP that works with my mother in a rehabilitation center as well as a grammar school. So, my summer will be busy but fulfilling.

Once again I would like to thank you for this scholarship and will continue to strive to do my best.

Sincerely and with thanks,

Brian Cook