

Dear Kory MacGregor, President,

Since I've last written you, I've arguably had the most exciting and productive year of my life. It started this past Summer when I was one of eight chosen to be a part of a volunteer program to teach English to high school students in Macau, China while I earned credits towards my major. During this adventure I was paired with a mentor teacher who freely gave me advice on how to improve my teaching. It being my first time in front of a class (and being in China), I was very nervous to begin with. However, as the Summer progressed, I found that teaching came somewhat naturally and by the end of my tenure knew with certainty that I wanted to teach for the rest of my life. The Roth Heating and Cooling Scholarship provided me with the financial freedom which allowed me to even consider going on this trip of a lifetime, and I thank you greatly.

School has been going tremendously as I've learned tons of new information and skills particularly from my organic chemistry, biochemistry, and laboratory classes. I've also managed to maintain a 3.85 GPA during my three years at OSU which I'm proud of. As I mentioned, I am still planning on becoming a high school science teacher — most likely chemistry. I've recently made the decision to pursue a Masters in Science Education directly after my undergraduate, most likely at Oregon State University. A Masters degree will provide me with above average teaching knowledge and skills to better prepare me for my career in teaching. Even though I have two years until I am officially in the workforce, I cannot contain my excitement to begin teaching.

Apart from my education, I've stayed busy with extracurriculars. I'm on the planning committee for OSU Sing (<http://blogs.oregonstate.edu/oregonstatesing/>) and am in charge of hiring the lighting, sound, and stage and ensuring the event runs smoothly. I've joined the Aspiring Educators Club on campus which meets weekly to talk about ways to improve our teaching and education system. I'm employed by the College of Education as a Student Ambassador where I help advise other undergraduates, participate in recruitment for the college, and help run tabling events. Even though my youth basketball team finished the season 1-9, my kids had a blast all season long and were unrecognizable by the end of the season because of how better they got at their basketball fundamentals. In the past year I've also become obsessed with reading as a pastime, indulging in the works of Robert Pirsig, Jon Krakauer, and George Saunders- just to name a few.

As for my future, I plan on working full-time this Summer at a home care provider in Corvallis to help pay for my school and living expenses. More importantly, I'll be able to squeeze out some time to backpack the timberline trail and Three Sisters loop with family and friends over Summer break and if I'm lucky fit a few books in between.

Again, I want to extend an honest thank you for supporting me in my education. It truly means something to me to have people who support and believe in my endeavors. I hope you have a fabulous year.

Sincerely,

Nick Huggins