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Dear Blake Lilly Prize Selection Committee,

I am currently a second year student at St. Mary's University (StMU) where I am majoring in Biophysics. As a member of the StMU Society of Physics Students I have had the opportunity to meet many new people and help my community. This year our chapter has put together a traveling physics show for the first time and it has taken off so well.

Teachers throughout San Antonio have the opportunity to contact our physics department and request demonstrations. At our presentations we also share our college experiences and answer questions. Many of the schools we visit do not have the resources to inform their students about college. We encourage students to go to college and at the same time introduce them to physics. It has been so rewarding to see the looks on their faces as they realize that physics is in the world around them every day all day long.

Some of our demonstrations include flowers, balloons, bananas and racquet and tennis balls in liquid nitrogen, Van de Graff generator demonstrations, sound waves, sound in space (or lack thereof), Wimshurst Machine demonstrations and many more. Throughout our presentations we ask students questions to see what they already know about the topic. Once we are sure they have an understanding of the topic we ask them questions while we set up other experiments. One student drew a picture of the presentation (see attached sheet).

This Friday our physics department is hosting a Physics Fiesta that is being sponsored by Youth Service America and State Farm Insurance. This physics exposition will include demonstrations and hands-on experiments for children from 1-100 and is open to the general public. Several schools are participating in the Fiesta of Physics for field trips. St. Mary's will be represented by over 35 students from all majors.

On behalf of the St. Mary's University Society of Physics Students I would like to share my chapter's experiences with you and enter the Blake Lilly Prize competition. I hope you enjoy reading our story as much as we enjoyed *creating* it! Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

Ashley L. Shaw

Society of Physics Students ~St. Mary's University~ Traveling Physics Show



Students lifting their feet as liquid nitrogen flows onto the floor during a physics demo.



One of the many things students learn is that liquid nitrogen is -350°F .



Physics Pheemales of a Pheather...
Phlock Together!!



Toby and Christine doing a Cryo-Show at a local middle school.



Nimo shows his true colors as he strikes a pose with the ladies before a presentation.



Flying Pie Pans... Ahhhh!!!