

Dear Dr. Freidenberg,

The members of my family have diverse interests in both the arts and the sciences. My grandfather (a rocket scientist) and my father (an aeronautical engineer) instilled in me a love of science, while my grandmother (an opera singer) and my mother (an author) taught me to love and appreciate art.

Today, my love for art and science is stronger than ever. I am pursuing my bachelor's degree in chemistry at Princeton University and performing music and writing in my spare time. I hope to one day be both a doctor and a novelist, writing stories centered around science and medicine. My dream is to teach future generations that science and art are not mutually exclusive but beautifully related, and that knowing one only enhances love and appreciation for the other.

I have written stories since I was very young and I am working on my first novel. I find writing to be a very cathartic experience and to me, few things are as satisfying as finishing a story. I can only hope to one day experience the joy of walking into a book store and seeing my name on the shelves.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Robert Fardink

---

Dear Dr. Freidenberg,

I am delighted to have won the competition and deeply honored to have done so in Sebastian's memory. I can finally afford to replace my dying laptop and get one on which I can write!

Thank you so much for this honor and distinction! Robert Gati (last year's winner) was my older brother in the fraternity, and it is largely because of his (and DKE's) influence and the fact that he won last year that inspired me to keep writing.

Jeff Fardink