



Dear Sponsor of the SAC Scholarship Fund:

I am honored to be selected as the recipient for the fall 2018 SAC Scholarship through the FGCU Foundation. It has been a privilege to work for the Department of Language & Literature for almost two years now. Although it is stressful at times to be a full-time staff member and a full-time graduate student, I am grateful for the constant support from my department faculty and staff, as well as the CAS Dean's Office. As a staff member, I was honored to have been nominated for Finest of the Flock last year, and completed my Diversity and Inclusion certificate earlier this year.

Throughout my undergraduate and now graduate studies at FGCU, I have had the opportunity to conduct my own research with Dr. Felix Jose, my thesis mentor, and Dr. Michael Savarese, my research supervisor. From this research, I have presented data at conferences such as the American Geophysical Union Fall Meeting, the Society of American Archaeology Annual Meeting and at SPIE Defense + Security. I was previously awarded the Whitaker Center for STEM Blair Foundation Environmental Sciences Scholarship, both as an undergraduate and graduate student, which has greatly helped me with my research and conference attendances.

I am currently starting my second year of graduate studies with a focus on primary productivity surrounding ecological zones along the west coast of Florida using remote sensing imagery. I am also finishing data analysis on research pertaining to the overharvesting of oysters by the Calusa Indians in Estero Bay. Receiving this SAC Scholarship will help me this semester with statistical software that is needed to complete the next step in my thesis work and data analysis on my oyster research, and possibly even travel money for an upcoming conference.

Along with my studies, I serve as the chief ambassador for the Marine and Ecological Sciences Program and am serving a second year on the Graduate Student Advisory Council for the Environmental Science Master's Program. I will soon be looking at Ph.D. programs with the hopes of attending school in Ireland. I am currently forming my Ph.D. proposal to incorporate all aspects of research that I have been involved with at FGCU, including satellite remote sensing, paleogeology and statistical analysis. My goal is to return to FGCU after completion of my Ph.D. to teach and conduct research here.

Again, I thank you for selecting me as the recipient of the SAC Scholarship.

Sincerely,

Erica T. Krueger