

Ivan G. Palmblad Scholarship



Brett Wheeler

Biology, Sophomore

A few things about me:

My name is Brett Wheeler, I am currently a second year student at Utah State and I wouldn't want to be doing anything else. These past two years I've been enriched by the people I've met here, genuinely inspired in my classes, and overall enjoyed the beautiful cache valley.

Coming to college the work ethic I've inherited from my family has caused me to be a serious student. I've always been told that I should treat school with the effort of a full time career, which has been easy for me as I believe school is fun. With the generous help of scholarships I am able to do what I love full time.

I'm proud to report my commitment to learning by maintaining a 4.00 GPA. During my studies I've uncovered a new burning interest within myself in the field of Biochemistry. I still am and always will be a student of Biology but while taking Organic Chemistry I've decided I must learn more. Heading into next year I will be working towards my Biology and Biochemistry degrees and am very excited for the upper level classes I've been working towards my whole academic career. I will be taking exciting classes such as Evolutionary Biology, my principle subject area of interest, and Quantitative analysis, where I will learn more about how to work in a laboratory.

In addition, in my studies in science I've been pursuing the opportunities of the USU Honors department. While I won't be starting on my Honors thesis next semester I can get started right away making Honors Contracts with my professors. I intend on pursuing a contract in my Evolutionary Biology class so that I can learn even more than that offered in the coursework alone.

Outside of academics I like to unwind and spend quality time with my friends. Since most of us are from out-of-state we try to fill the void left by our families. We enjoy keeping traditions, like our weekly Taco Tuesdays and our recent Easter Brunch, and playing games together, like Catchphrase, Texas Hold'em, Battle of the Sexes, etc.

I'm also blessed with great companionship in roommates. My former roommate and I are both High school Tennis players and like to keep up our training on the tennis and racquetball court. My current roommate is from the Dominican Republic and is here in the US for the first time. We enjoy watching subtitled Spanish films and sharing our culinary traditions. I've learned so much from him and being able to meet more Dominicans and share in their culture has been truly incredible.

When the time comes that I've completed my degrees here at Utah State I plan on applying to graduate school. I hope to study deeper into an area of Evolutionary Biology using the knowledge and skills I've gained in the field of Biochemistry. From graduate school I believe I will be prepared to make a career in science, whatever it may be.