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Dear Charlotte Seminole Club,

Thank you very much for choosing me as your 2007 scholarship recipient. It makes me happy to know that the Seminoles in Charlotte support those of us who also chose to drive the five hundred miles to Tallahassee and benefit from all that Florida State University has to offer.

This fall I will be starting my Junior year at FSU. I am a double Environmental Studies and Spanish major, with a minor in Biology. I have always been interested in nature, but never thought of making a career out of it. However, when it came time to choose a college major, I knew that pursuing a career I had no passion for was worse than pursuing an unconventional one. Thank you for supporting students that choose to follow their hearts--it is very encouraging.

I am planning on studying ecology for graduate school, which may take me anywhere in the country. Actually, this summer I was blessed enough to get a job working with Dr. Nora Underwood and Dr. Stacey Halpern on a study of plant-insect interactions, a grant funded by the U.S Department of Agriculture. This experience has motivated me to look into learning more about the world of scientific research.

As you can see, I am trying to make the most of my experience at FSU and I absolutely love living in Tallahassee and getting to know the rich ecosystem in which it is found. However, I promise to come back to Charlotte and maybe someday call it my permanent home. I hope at that time I can join you all to watch football games, tell stories about good times and late-night study sessions at Strozier, and motivate other students to join the Seminole family.

Sincerely,

Katty Paulino