

Drake University
Department of Math
and Computer Science

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Aerospace States Association

Dear Sir or Madam:

My passion for space began with my mother's interest in the first teacher in space; we watched all aspects of the space program on television together. Ever since I first saw video footage as a young child of rockets propelled upwards into space, I've had a passion for space. As I got older and realized that my talents lied more in work with computers, my hopes of being able to work in the aerospace industry seemed to get further and further away. When I began attending Drake University while still in high school, I became aware of one of the faculty member's work with Jet Propulsion Laboratories.

I have spent time at JPL the past two summers and continue to do work on a project called WebWinds that produces a free visualization tool for many different kinds of satellite data. WebWinds now rivals and surpasses commercially available visualization packages costing thousands of dollars. I would like to continue my work with the WebWinds project.

I hope to encourage continued cooperation between Drake University and JPL by assisting other students in becoming a part of the WebWinds group. Next semester I hope to help one or more students become more familiar with the project, so that they may pick up where I am forced to leave off. If the opportunity is available, I am also interested in working at JPL during the summer of 2001. My experience during the summer of 2000 was so positive, that I think it is beneficial to any student willing to put the time and effort into becoming a part of the WebWinds team.

My GPA at Drake overall is a 3.5 and within my Computer Science Major my GPA is a 3.7. I have been a part of many campus activities, but most important to me has been my participation as co-editor for an on campus publication called DUIN magazine. I have written for the magazine for 4 years now and was selected as co-editor last year. I have been an active participant in the Interface Computer Society on campus, and was elected President of this organization last year. I have been an active participant in the Rape Awareness program at Drake, helping the women's studies department make campus a safe environment. Within the community, I have been an active volunteer for the Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, assisting with the book sales and letter writing activities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Casey O'Donnell