

May 2014

Dear Class of '55,

I wish to offer you my sincerest thanks for helping to fund my very first adventure out of the country. I was raised in a small town and my family was never keen on travel, but despite their influence and best efforts I have always wanted to see as much of the world as I possibly could. During my undergraduate career I have been able to see New York City, Chicago, several regions of South Carolina, a small portion of Massachusetts, and now THE BAHAMAS!

With the help of your funding I was able to attend the BMB 485 course. We conducted original research in Fire Coral and Queen Conch sea snails on the Island of San Salvador between Feb. 10th and March 5th. During this phenomenal adventure I was able to discuss biological problems with peers and instructors as passionate about the subject as I am. I was able to meet and learn about new people, learn new skills, develop new views about the world, and contribute to an exceedingly fascinating and puzzling research project.

Thanks to your assistance I was able to receive my first passport stamp. Hopefully I will be able to receive more to join it soon. The following are a few photos of my trip.

With the greatest thanks,

Olivia E. Evans '14



Beach Day: Me during lunch on the beach.



Lab Work: Here I am preparing an agar plate for DNA analysis in our field lab.



Snorkeling: Although I was not the greatest swimmer before this trip I was able to learn quickly. This is me returning to the surface after a dive.



The Class in Lecture: Settling down for progress updates and future plans for our class research.



The Class on the Move: As we arrive at a beach for a day of field work and sample collection.