



Dear Scholarship Committee:

If the 18 year-old James would have known and understood the value of higher education the way the 34 year-old James does you would have received this letter sixteen years ago. Perhaps the passage of 16 years and the experiences contained in them will prove to be an advantage that will make further education of the 34 year-old more fulfilling personally and more beneficial to family, friends and the community.

I am, first of all a husband and father. Tammie, my wife of eight years, and I have two beautiful children—our daughter Darby born in March of 1993, and our son Dane born in February of 1995. My marriage and the birth of our children are the most satisfying, inspiring events in my life. Another recent event, not exactly a positive one at first glance, is one of the reasons you have received this letter.

I have been a journeyman carpenter for the past nine years, working for several framing contractors in Ventura and L.A. counties on both residential and commercial projects. My duties have included all aspects of framing construction as well as supervisory responsibilities. My life changed drastically on November 18, 1994. A wall and beam assembly, later estimated to weigh some 3000 pounds, fell onto my left leg causing a complete break of my tibia fibula.

Since this career ending injury, however, more positives than negatives have

emerged despite long therapy sessions and several follow-up operations. I can honestly say that the worst consequence of breaking my leg was that I broke my leg. The incident has allowed me the opportunity to spend more time with my wife and children and to seek a college education.

Before the accident I was physically active at work, in recreation, and in my participation as a semi-professional football player with the Ventura County Cardinals. At that point I hadn't thought seriously about furthering my education. Before the accident I was active at work, in recreation, and in my participation as a semiprofessional football player with the Ventura County Cardinals. At that point I hadn't thought seriously about furthering my education. Because of my injury, I was faced with the realization that I was not indestructible. This revelation, along with much prompting from my wife, encouraged me to view this as a chance for a positive change and a more secure future.

I am the first in my family's history to attend a university. In Spring of 1995, I enrolled in 22.5 units at Oxnard College. Being a self-motivated, goal-oriented person. I was able to achieve a 4.0 G.P.A. and a place on the Dean's Honors List. Despite my subsequent operations and my wife's ten day hospitalization for a severe blood clot which developed after the birth of our son. I have maintained a 4.0 G.P.A. after 75 college units. My goal is to continue in my ambition to earn a Bachelor's degree. I plan to major in Communications and minor in Psychology to improve myself and my ability to interact and communicate effectively with others.

One of my most time-consuming activities, as well as one of the most rewarding, is my involvement with the New Apostolic Church of which I have been a member since

birth. My responsibilities as volunteer youth counselor and advisor for our 20 Southern California congregations include planning and promotion of youth trips and activities. I am called upon for guidance, both natural and spiritual to benefit the young people, who are worth as much time and effort as we can possibly offer. Our activities include visiting the sick and elderly, as well as the performance of various musical presentations throughout the year. My new communication skills and the broader view provided by the university experience will be invaluable in my relationships with these youth and all others of which I am a part.

My career goals will also be enhanced by my education. I have nearly completed the certificate for the Fire Technology Program at Oxnard College which I am studying in addition to my regular classes. When my injury heals I will actively continue the pursuit of a career with the Fire Department. This will, again, provide many opportunities for community service and ensure that others will benefit from both my life experience and formal education. This will be most rewarding for me.

This 34 year-old returning student has learned to appreciate the generosity of others. I would be honored and grateful for whatever assistance you are willing to provide me. Your investment in me will be one which will not only assist me in the accomplishment of my personal goals, but an investment that will benefit our community, locally as well as the greater community of human kind. Thank you for your consideration.

Very Sincerely Yours.