

Dear Jack H. Marston Melanoma Fund,

It seems like just yesterday I walked across the Beister gymnasium in a drenched with sweat green cap and gown during a fiasco of a graduation involving bullhorns, beach balls, and some emergency elderly evacuations. But this past May first, I walked across the stage on Illinois Wesleyan University's quad wearing a slightly less sweaty green cap and gown after an immensely smoother ceremony. I am now a college graduate because of all the help and support I've received in my life from all of my friends and family, including the Marstons and the whole Jack H. Marston Melanoma fund. I know Marston the local scholarship was vital to my success in college. Not only was it the monetary value associated with the scholarship, but I genuinely enjoyed and learned from the time I spent over the years volunteering at the local race and at the Jack H. Marston booth at the Chicago Marathon Expo. I feel like I gained a greater appreciation for the scholarship and the fund as a whole as I spent more time around the other volunteers and race participants.

I recently graduated with a Bachelors of Arts in Economics after a four-year stint as a student athlete at Illinois Wesleyan University. I was a four-year varsity letter winner of the Men's Basketball team and loved every second of it. All four years I lived with the same six roommates, who were all also member of the basketball team. I still was able to keep in contact with most of my high school teammates and coaches. I can even go to a Northwestern Basketball game and only be half lying when I say, "I taught Johnny Shurna everything he knows!"

I am now looking forward to moving in to the “real world” stage of my life. I just started a job this month for a third party technical staffing firm, Aerotek, as a recruiter in their Commercial Engineering department. So far I really enjoy the time I have spent in the office working with my new co-workers as I make the transition to waking up before six o’clock, having to shave daily and wearing a tie.

I don’t know how ill be ever to thank all my friends, family, teachers, coaches, teammates, classmates and everyone that has helped me though my life to this point. I am truly appreciative for the scholarship I received over my four-year college career, and I look forward towards continuing my relationship working with and volunteering for the Jack H. Marston Melanoma fund. Who knows I may even get brave and run the marathon as a part of the Marston team!

Thank you so much for everything,

Duncan Lawson