

Dear Mr. Oleskey,

My name is Becca Winkler, I am a current sophomore at Wes and one of the incredibly lucky recipients of the summer experience grant! I would like to introduce myself to you and tell you a little about the project this summer that your donation is helping to fund.

I am a Neuroscience and Feminist Gender Sexuality Studies double major here at Wes with plans to go on to veterinary school. I also run track here at Wes, as well as working at Olin library, Wespress, and the Middletown Veterinary Hospital. I am extremely interested in large animal and exotic species medicine. When I was a junior in high school I read an incredible book titled Elephants on the Edge by Dr. G. A. Bradshaw. She is a pioneer in the field of trans-species psychology specializing early on in elephants. She was the first to discover PTSD symptoms in the elephants of South Africa who were victim of violent culls to decrease population during the 1960's. Her book transformed my future plans and is what inspired me to pursue veterinary medicine as a route to help solve global conservation problems, like the looming extinction of African and Southeast Asian elephants.

This summer I will be working directly with Dr. Bradshaw and her organization, the Kerulos foundation, to study elephant trauma and recovery in sanctuary environments. I will be going to the Boon Lott elephant Sanctuary in Northern Thailand for one month to conduct field research as well as studying with Dr. Bradshaw in the states. This is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity and pivotal to my career goals.

I wouldn't be able to partake in this amazing opportunity without the assistance of the Summer Experience Grant. If you have any questions about me or my upcoming plans I would love to discuss them with you!

Best,

Becca