October 7, 2005

Dear Chemistry Teacher:

I hope the school year is going well for you, and that this letter finds you well. I am writing to request your assistance with identifying graduating seniors who are interested in pursuing a degree in chemistry after high school, and who have exhibited the ability to succeed in chemistry courses.

The Chemistry Department at The University of Alabama at Birmingham has established a 4-year program of support for select Chemistry Majors, the UAB Chemistry Scholar program. This fellowship program gives outstanding chemistry students the opportunity to be a teaching assistant in chemistry laboratories which helps in their understanding of chemical processes, as well as allowing them to develop their abilities to effectively communicate about sciences. Additionally, a stipend of $1,600 is offered for the first year, and $3,200 for each of the remaining three academic years. To maintain participation in the Fellows program, the students must remain in good academic standing as a full-time Chemistry major and maintain a 3.0 GPA with at least a B average in all Chemistry courses.

We feel that this program is an excellent way to recruit top chemistry undergraduates to UAB, and allow them to be part of the leadership in the department. Also, the students are able to foster unique relationships with the UAB faculty, which aids in their education. Requirements to be admitted to the program are an ACT score of 26 or greater, and a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

To be considered for the UAB Chemistry Scholars Program students should 1) apply for admission to UAB, 2) submit the attached application form and 3) submit your nomination by December 15, 2005. The Scholars application and the nomination can be submitted by mail or email. These forms may also be found online through the “Programs” link on the Chemistry Department home page, at www.chem.uab.edu.

Application to UAB by November 1, 2005 is necessary in order to access to the largest number of UAB scholarships, thereby maximizing their scholarship package. The Scholars program funding can be added to many of the university-wide scholarships. After materials are received, interviews will be set up for selected students with UAB faculty in the spring to select the 2006 Chemistry Fellows.

If you have any questions about the UAB Chemistry Scholar program, please feel free to contact me at (205) 975-2953, or via e-mail at cmcclure@uab.edu. Our department would be excited to meet with or provide tours of our facilities for any interested chemistry students. Thank you for your assistance in this matter, and best wishes for an excellent school year.

Craig McClure, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Chemistry
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Attachments: Teacher Nomination Form
Student Application Form