

December 15, 2003

Ron Turner
Executive Vice President
University of Missouri System-
Office of the President
321 University Hall
Columbia, Missouri 65211

Dear Mr. Turner:

It is truly an honor to be a Henry Mitchell Scholar. As I studied at the University of the Western Cape-South Africa during the months of February through August of 2003, I gained not only academic knowledge but also an extended family of newfound friends. The staff and faculty of UWC really welcome and embrace the exchange students, making the transition easy, and much like a home away from home. They would greet you daily with warm smiles in passing on your way to class. I was also honored to be one of twelve post-graduates (the first American student) to have our names engraved on the wall of Chris Hani Residence. Upon completion of the semester, I finished with a transfer of a 3.5 G.P.A. My study abroad advisors Janean Paulsen and Professor Jan Persens were very attentive to my academic excellence and overall needs. By making sure I was acquainted with the campus and volunteer opportunities off campus.

I had the privilege of volunteering time with area women and children with the HIV/AIDS virus at a local hospice facility in Cape Town. This was such a life changing experience. That I believe that I have found my calling, and that is to do all that I can to help in combating against this deadly virus. Upon my return to the states, I have sought out various organizations here in Kansas City that offer outreach opportunities for individuals and families infected or affected by HIV/AIDS. I am currently volunteering at two facilities in the Metropolitan area, in hopes to gain the knowledge and skills to help our families here and to one day return to South Africa to join others on this mission.

I know that this wonderful life-changing experience would not have been possible without your support and consideration. Thank you so much for believing in me, and blessing me with the seed of the Henry Mitchell Scholarship. For you have indeed sown into my life that I may in return sow into the lives of others. Thank you.

Truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fantashia Freeman". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Truly yours," text.

Fantashia Freeman

Henry Mitchell Scholar