

Well into their first semester, our two scholarship award winners took time from their busy schedules to write to us about their experiences.

From the Dorms...

Lauren Wilde at Wake Forest

Wake Forest has exceeded all of my expectations. To begin with, classes are fast paced and require a lot of out-of-class work. While the amount of reading needed can be overwhelming, it's balanced out by the wonderful professors. The teachers here are intelligent, funny and genuinely want to teach and want you as their student to succeed.

Outside of the classroom, Wake has impressed me as well. The students are outgoing, friendly and highly motivated. It's nearly impossible to walk the length of the quad and not have someone say hello to you or wave.

My only complaints thus far include college eating and sleeping habits. Your food choices are pretty limited, but a trip to get some off-campus dining can always raise your spirits. As for sleeping, well, it's pretty difficult to get your body's required hours, but I've already grown accustomed to naps.

Wake Forest life has been amazing. I feel challenged, independent, and most importantly, at home.



Lauren and her parents at a recent Wake Forest football game.

Lauren Wilde



Joe, second from the right, with his friends at the University of Virginia.

Joe Nuffer at the University of Virginia

I have enjoyed the University of Virginia immensely. My courses haven't been too difficult, but the variation in course difficulty is obvious. Freshman Chemistry is easy, while Single Variable Calculus has been time consuming and difficult.

Introductory Engineering and English have been between the two extremes of difficulty. My college English course contrasts from my high school courses since we focus on writing in a professional setting and write memos and abstracts. Our first major assignment was a technical description of a toy that had a complex mechanism. I described the super soaker and the flow-actuated pulsator that expels the water. The work has been fun so far.



Joe crosses the finish line first in the Pepsi 10K run.

With all the work I have in college, I am surprised by the amount of free time I still have. I run with the Cavalier Road Runners, a club team for runners. I won the Pepsi 10K last Saturday, the first race our team competed in. The Charlottesville Track Club sponsored the race and I received a pewter cup and won a Virginia Lacrosse cap as a grab bag prize. I also won the Apple Pie 5K and received a delicious apple pie. I am going to Chapel Hill at the end of October for a cross-country race against other college club teams. After discovering how much free time I have, I want to run for the UVA track team in the winter and spring.

Joe Nuffer