Dear FPC,

During my time as an undergraduate at Whittier College, Professor Jordan Hanson was my mentor and advisor. Together we completed some exciting work, both toward the betterment of my education as well as toward the advancement of Professor Hanson's research.

With Professor Hanson's help, I designed a course of study through the Whittier Scholars Program that both met my academic interests and provided some of the most memorable and educationally valuable experiences of my life. During my time on campus, I also assisted Professor Hanson with his research in Antarctica on Neutrino Particles. We very nearly made it to Antarctica in Fall 2019. Our travel and logistics documents were all completed, but -- regrettably -- the National Science Foundation was unable to fulfill the grant for that specific season.

The course of study that I developed with Professor Hanson not only provided academic rigor, but also invaluable field experience. Two examples stand out: Iceland and Alaska.

In Fall 2020, I traveled to Iceland to attend a study abroad program on climate change in the arctic (SIT: Study Abroad). While in Iceland, I was able to immerse myself in the environmental sciences, climate policy, glaciology and much more. As part of my final project, I completed a short film on the glaciers of Iceland, receiving help and guidance from the local university center, Hornafjörður Research Center, and a local guiding company, Glacier Adventure. I remain in contact with both organizations and am planning to work for Glacier Adventure in Summer 2022, while hopefully also assisting with a research project on glaciers through the Hornafjörður Research Center.

In Summer 2021, I attended the Juneau Icefield Research Program in Alaska, an unparalleled eight-week field experience and educational opportunity that took me across the Juneau Icefield on skis. We stayed at established camps in the middle of the icefield while collecting important data on the ice through a variety of methods, such as radio echo-sounding, structure for motion with drones, and digging mass-balance pits, among other methods. This program put me in contact with nearly the entire cryosphere community, from those who work in research from the Arctic to Antarctica and everything in between.

These two programs are the most notable of my time as part of the Whittier Scholars Program, and only a snapshot of the invaluables experiences that made-up my undergraduate education. I am extremely grateful for the opportunities that were presented to me and know that none of this could have happened without Professor Hanson's guiding hand and gracious support. I could not imagine a better fit than Professor Jordan Hanson for the Whittier Scholars Program.

Sincerely,

Nicolas Bakken-French