



Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

2006-07 Foundation Scholarship Application for Returning/New Transfer Students

JMU, MSC 3519, Warren Hall, Harrisonburg, VA 22807 Ph: (540) 568-7820 Fax: (540) 568-7994

Please read the following information carefully before completing your application.

Use this form to apply for the JMU Foundation Scholarships awarded by the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. To receive priority consideration, we recommend you submit your scholarship application by May 1, 2006. In addition, students requesting need-based scholarships must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Important: Submitting your FAFSA by March 1 will ensure that you receive priority consideration for all types of financial aid. You can apply for financial aid online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov

Incomplete applications will not receive consideration.

Student Name: Michael Lam		Student ID: 104146857	Social Security Number: 224-41-9565
Undergraduate Classification: ☐ New Transfer ☐ Returning		Current Grade Level (e.g., sophomore): senior	
Enrollment Status: Full-Time ☐ Part-Time ☐	Cumulative JMU GPA: 4.0	Expected Graduation Date: May 2007	
Major: Computer Science		Minor: Mathematics and Technical & Scientific Communication (TSC)	
JMU P.O. Box or Local Address: 261 East Grattan Street Harrisonburg, VA 22801			
Permanent Address: 20002 Wooded View Lane			
City: Elkton	State: VA	Zip: 22827	County: (e.g., Rockingham) Rockingham
Permanent Phone: (540) 298-0730		E-mail Address: lam2mo@jmu.edu	
Place of Employment (if any): N/A		Hours/week:	Greek Affiliation (if any): none
Have you filed a FAFSA for 2006-07? Yes ☐ No ☐		If no, when do you plan to do so?	

Clubs/Organizations/Activities (list in order of level of involvement)				
	Name	Location	Years Involved	Describe your Involvement/Contributions
Ex.	Boys & Girls Club	Community	2000-2003	Volunteered weekly, attended special events for kids, tutored
1.	Evangelical Presbyterian Church	College	2001-2005	Leader of youth praise band
2.	Association for Computing Machinery (ACM)	College	2004-present	Member and participant in programming contest
3.	Chi Alpha Christian Fellowship	College	2004-present	Member
4.	Unix User's Group (UUG)	College	2005-present	Vice President
5.	Upsilon Pi Epsilon	College	2005-present	Vice President

Honors/Distinctions/Awards (list in reverse chronological order)		
	Name	Location
Ex.	National Honors Society	High School
1.	Pi Mu Epsilon	College

2.	Computer Science Departmental Scholarship	College
3.	Upsilon Pi Epsilon	College
4.	Computer Science, Engineering and Mathematics Scholarship	College
5.	Phi Theta Kappa	College

Personal Statement (Required)

Your scholarship application must include a personal statement. In the space below, describe your unique characteristics or the special circumstances that make you a strong candidate for a JMU Foundation Scholarship. Include information about your leadership roles and goals in life. If you have overcome obstacles in your pursuit of life or educational goals, you may want to describe them here. There are no restrictions on content. However, your personal statement should include how you would distinguish yourself from other prospective scholarship recipients. Your essay must be a minimum of 500 words. *(This section is expandable.)*

I was homeschooled during my elementary and secondary education. At age 15, I began taking courses at the local community college. With those credits, plus credits received through AP courses done at home, I was able to complete the Associates Degree in the University Transfer Program from Blue Ridge Community College at the same time I graduated from homeschool high school. I then transferred into JMU as a Junior.

I had only planned being at JMU for two years. However, during the spring semester of my junior year, I began to experience health problems that eventually sent me to the hospital for three extended stays during the summer/fall of 2006. I had surgeries to remove fluid from my lungs and to replace a vertebra that had been destroyed by a tumor. Eventually I was diagnosed with anaplastic large cell lymphoma and had to sit out a semester for chemotherapy treatments.

Although for some students the prospect of taking no classes for a semester is appealing, I found the lack of academic stimulation to be agonizingly boring. In the spring of 2006, I was able to take one class while finishing chemotherapy and then receiving radiation therapy. In March I finished radiation and was pronounced cancer-free. This semester I am returning as a full-time student to finish my Computer Science major and minors in Mathematics and Technical & Scientific Communication.

Regarding future goals and plans, I am currently interested in pursuing research as a career. Often during everyday activities, I find myself questioning the things I read and learn, asking questions about lesser-known topics and wondering about concepts that few others seem to care about. Being homeschooled taught me the skills necessary to dig into a subject on my own. I have always been highly motivated to learn new concepts independently and have gained greater appreciation for having learned them because of the work involved. Because of this motivation to attain higher learning, I decided last semester to apply for a summer undergraduate research program.

I thought it would be interesting to try to combine my computer science skills with my personal experiences in medical imaging, so I applied for the Medical Informatics (MedIX) Research Experiences for Undergraduate (REU) Students program at DePaul University in Chicago. I was selected to be one of nine students involved in medical imaging research in a joint program with Northwestern Memorial Hospital. We spent ten weeks working on various projects involving image processing and medical informatics. I found it to be a very stimulating and challenging experience, and it solidified my interest in research. I currently plan to apply for a graduate program in computer science when I graduate from JMU.

I have always been a firm believer in excellence, no matter what my occupation or hobby. I graduated from community college with a 4.0 GPA and have so far maintained a 4.0 GPA at JMU, even during the semester that I was having health problems. I also enjoy integrating the various parts of my life, such as how my internship combined computer programming and my medical experiences. When I served as leader of the youth praise band at my church for two years, I used my computer programming skills to implement a computer-based music organization system that enabled easier planning of music lists. In addition to playing my guitar with my church youth praise band, I also played guitar and led a group of homeschool kids in a singing ministry at two nursing homes during my 9th and 10th grade years of high school.

I believe it is important for cancer patients to not fall into the trap of feeling incapable of performing at the same level as "normal" people. The helplessness that I felt while lying in a hospital bed or tethered to a IV line were at times overwhelming, but hope will prevail in the end. With the help of modern medicine and the support of loved ones, faith and determination can and do enable cancer patients to not only survive, but to achieve their dreams. Of this I am living proof.

Certification Statement and Authorization to Release Information

By submitting this application, I certify that the information provided is complete and accurate. In addition, I authorize the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, as an agent of James Madison University, to release information from my application and other available resources, including my Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), to individuals or members of search committees participating in the scholarship selection process. Furthermore, the financial aid office has my permission to release any information used in the scholarship selection process to other institutional representatives, the JMU Foundation, and the donor(s). If I receive a scholarship, the financial aid office, other JMU representatives, the JMU Foundation, or members of selection committees may share information with donor(s) and others, about my qualifications, as they deem appropriate. The financial aid office will consider student privacy in any decision to release information.

I understand that shared information may include, but is not limited to, the following items.

- Scholarship application
- Grade point average
- Financial aid information
- Personal identification information (e.g., name, address, and telephone number)

Finally, I understand that my decision to authorize the release of information is voluntary. By signing this form, I confirm that I have read and understand the conditions described in this certification/release form.

Student's Signature: Michael O. Lam

Date: 8/28/06

Important Note:

- Paper Applications – Applications submitted in paper format require your original signature with date of signing. Faxed signatures are acceptable.
- Electronic Applications – For applications submitted as e-mail attachments, you must enter your name in the designated box. JMU students must use their JMU e-mail account to submit an electronic application.

Applications submitted without appropriate signature information will not receive scholarship consideration.