



Dear Mr. Cappelluti,

I am immensely honored to receive the Christian Cappelluti Memorial Scholarship. The more I learn about Christian and his enthusiasm for living, the more I try to adopt a vivacious appetite for life.

I am currently a senior majoring in Mathematics and German and minoring in Art History, and I am attending Wake Forest with the Presidential Scholarship in cello performance. Just as it did for Christian, music continues to play a central role in my life, spanning genres from classical to bluegrass to rock. I am a composer; I have written a string quartet and a cello suite. I am also finishing a concerto for mandolin and orchestra. As an accomplished classical cellist, I have won three concerto competitions and have played the Elgar, Dvorak, and Shostakovich cello concertos with the orchestra. In addition, I play mandolin and sing in two professional bands, The Dan River Girls and The Martha Bassett Band. With these bands I've recorded four CDs—I think Christian would have enjoyed these recordings. This scholarship has enabled me to continue taking music courses and pursuing my varied musical interests.

In addition to music, I have serious interests in mathematics, German, architecture, and Ancient Egypt. In 2019 I received a grant to travel alone throughout Italy for six weeks to conduct a research project on architecture throughout Italy. All through the Roman Forum, the mosaic-filled churches of Ravenna, and the ancient city of Pompeii, I studied the connections between ancient and modern architecture. I have now applied for the Fulbright Scholarship to study Egyptology at Humboldt University in Berlin. I hope to receive my PhD on the architectural heritage of the woman pharaoh Hatshepsut's reign.

I feel deeply honored to receive this award in memory of your talented son, who brought light to all of those around him.

Sincerely,  
Fiona Burdette