

**Brian Ruzicka****Personal Statement**

I, like many physics students, am in love with physics. However, my interest in physics began in a different way than most people's probably did. I didn't become interested in physics through school or anything like that, but when I saw a comedy called "Young Einstein." In this movie, a very goofy young man, who was supposed to be portraying Albert Einstein, was trying to find a way to put bubbles into beer, when he miraculously discovered the special theory of relativity. While this movie obviously was quite ridiculous and really didn't involve much physics, it did mention some of the very basic ideas of special relativity. As I heard these things, I became very excited and I wanted to know if this was real or not, so I went and started researching the subject as much as I could. Although I didn't understand much of what I was reading (I was in about 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the time), I really enjoyed it and I just wanted to keep learning more and try and understand as much as I could. From this point on, my interest in science, and especially physics, has increased rapidly, mainly because it seems to have an important influence on mid 90's comedies, but also because of the material itself.

I am now a little over halfway through the third year of my undergraduate studies. As my college career progresses and my classes grow more advanced, they keep becoming more and more enjoyable. Every day I get to wake up in the morning to learn something that I know will be new and exciting. This semester is especially exciting, since on Thursdays, I get to learn about a several different physics topics in a row, as I go from straight from Optics to Electricity & Magnetism, and then onto Thermodynamics. I really enjoy seeing the overlap of all of these topics, and it is on this day that my appreciation for physics as a whole grows tremendously. Thursday is most definitely my favorite day of the week.

Now, while learning these things is quite satisfying, a side effect of all of this is that my thirst for knowledge grows and grows and what I learn is simply not enough. I want to know more. I want to try and explore as many parts of this enormous science as I can. As a result, it is now obvious to me that I would like to continue with my studies on a more advanced level. I plan to continue my pursuit of knowledge in this field by earning a Ph.D. in physics and then doing research. I feel that my love of physics and unbreakable determination will most definitely allow me to succeed in physics. Right now, it is a very large part of my life, and it is my goal to keep working to make it an even bigger part.