



Julie Leviter

Honoring Terrence McNamara of Commack High School and Michael Walter of the Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering



Julie, a member of the Golden Key and Tau Beta Pi honor societies is a biological and environmental engineering major who has been on the Dean's List every semester. She is head teaching assistant for

BEE 2600 and has interned at the National Institutes of Health. She plans to enter medical school next fall.

As a high school student, I often just accepted information presented to me at face value. However, Mr. McNamara's Theory of Knowledge class taught me to challenge both my classroom lessons and my surroundings. I remember engaging in fascinating discussions about the world in which we live, and analyzing technology, culture, and the learning process. Mr. McNamara took many liberties in teaching the class, and it certainly began to turn the wheels in my brain. I found myself feeling free to challenge human nature or knowledge and to share opinions with the class. I learned to take the initiative to step backwards and to look at information objectively, and to question its origin and implications. This is a skill that I have taken with me throughout college both inside and outside the classroom.

I consider myself extremely fortunate to have had Professor Michael Walter as an engineering advisor. Far from the rigorous and pressure filled environment that I anticipated at Cornell, the atmosphere that Professor Walter created in his Engineering Seminar was one of community and exploration. He encouraged us to take advantage of all that Cornell has to offer, which extended far beyond the classroom. From joining a research lab, to studying abroad, to seeking out summer internships, Professor Walter made it clear to us that there was much more to an outstanding college experience than good grades. With his help, optimism, and support, I colored my time at Cornell with activities that enabled me to mature as a student, a leader, and a citizen of the global community.