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Dear Sirs,

First of all let me express how happy I am to be able to participate in the Phoenix Institute's summer program for the second time. It would not be possible without your financial support, for which I am very grateful.

My adventure with the Phoenix Institute began last year, when I attended the summer seminar in Notre Dame. Impressed by the amazing atmosphere and spirit that I experienced there, I decided to take part in the summer school in Gaming this year.

What I have found most valuable and inspiring during the last few days is how the idea of friendship is being realized here. I think it is extraordinary that such strong and disinterested relations can be made in such a short period. My personal achievement is connected with this fact: it seems that I have regained faith in people here, I have discovered that it is possible to make real friends and to improve oneself thanks to them. I am particularly glad of the presence of Dr Evans and his wonderful wife, Rosemary, in Gaming as they are an alive example of how a true friendship and love make people happy and eager to share that happiness with others.

I have been attending two courses: *Heroism* and *The Goal of the Person and the State in Plato's "Republic"*. The former has reminded me of the necessity of trying to become a hero in my ordinary life. The ability of making heroic acts is not reserved only for a selected group of people. There is much to be improved around us. Therefore everybody can find an area (family, work, friends, people in need etc.) that they can make better and happier. This is what heroism of each and every individual is all about.

I guess I would not have the opportunity of reading Plato in my near future, if I did not read his great works in Gaming. Although (or maybe because it is so) the lecture of the *Republic* does not belong to the easiest ones, it has taught me to think more thoroughly and express my thoughts and ideas in a clear way. I have also found out how a deep discussion of people of different interests and professions, looking for the higher *good* helps understand the idea of intangible virtues.

An idealistic and theoretical approach to human concerns is one thing, but introducing certain ideas into practice is something entirely different. That is why I liked the study groups' talks, which on the one hand were helpful in understanding difficult questions touched upon during the lectures and on the other hand made us think how to make them

realistic. Moreover, the fact that we are a small group, helped us learn more about one another, which I find very important.

I love the idea of organizing Phoenix Institute's events in secluded areas so that their participants can get closer to one another. I already miss all wonderful people I have met here and I wish this year's seminar were at least one week longer. I surely will recommend the future Phoenix Institute's programs to my friends and will do my best to keep coming back to Gaming, Notre Dame or any other place where the Phoenix Institute's family will meet.

Thank you very much for your support and very kind reception. I hope for an increasingly fruitful cooperation in the future. See you again!

Yours sincerely,
Agnieszka Wincewicz