Sterling Alexander Herron is this week’s high school intern of the week in the Academy of Science. He is working with Dr. Thomas and Dr. Cockman. Sterling’s favorite subject to study is History. He plans to major in biology and chemistry.

Sterling is from Butler, TN. He is currently being homeschooled and will graduate in 2011. Sterling enjoys hiking, photography, ultimate frisbee, getting outside, foraging for wild foods, ethnobotany, and biomimicry. His favorite books are The 5,000 Year Leap, The Fourth Turning, and A Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich. His favorite movies are with Frank Capra and the Lord of the Rings trilogy.

As a high school intern in the Academy, Sterling’s most memorable moment was when he presented his solar project last spring in the Student Union with Brian Myer, Daniel Richard, Jay Philips, and Nate Kelischek. He had fun showing off their solar tracking mount, explaining how it all worked, and talking about what they had been working on all semester. When asked to provide a quote about his overall experience in the academy Sterling stated, “After I’m finishing my second year in the Academy, I’ve found I have grown a lot in knowledge of the applications of science in a university setting. I’ve been given the opportunity to access tools, technology, and expertise that I never would have otherwise, and I’ve gotten to be a part of some great teams. I’ve learned that things don’t always go as planned, but that is part of the discovery. Overall, it’s been a unique learning experience and certainly an invaluable one, especially to a high schooler!” After completing high school, Sterling plans to graduate with a BS in biology. He then plans to attend graduate school and pursue a doctorate. Also, soon after he graduates he plans to hike the entire Appalachian Trail. Further into the future Sterling hopes to start his own business through which he will sell new technologies that he will discover and invent based on biomimicry.

WEEK OF 2/21/11 – 2/27/11