Isabella Priest

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EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin - Madison ***2022 - 2024***
Master's in Chemistry
Cumulative GPA: 3.6

Texas A&M University ***2018 - 2022***
Bachelor of Science
Major in Chemistry; Minor in Mathematics
Cumulative GPA: 3.8

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Student Researcher
Prof. Daniel Weix, Madison, Wisconsin ***Jan. 2023 – Aug. 2024***
- Investigating the capabilities of semiconductor quantum dots for traditional photochemical organic reactions
- Leveraging pre-arrangement of organic molecules for TTET pathways via surface tethering onto nanomaterials
- Tailoring nanomaterial catalysts to be effective in metallaphotoredox cross-electrophile coupling reactions
- Synthesizing long-chain 4-vinyl benzoate derivatives for dot-mediated [2+2] photocyclizations via carboxylate binding

Undergraduate Research Assistant
Prof. John A. Gladysz, College Station, Texas ***Jan. 2020 – June 2022***
Includes 2021 Student Research Internship Program through the Texas A&M Energy Institute
- Designed and executed the synthesis of bipyrazole ligands for octahedral d^6 coordination complexes with cobalt and rhodium metal centers
- Studied lipophilic salts of Werner complexes as hydrogen-bond-donor catalysts for the enantioselective Michael additions of malonic esters to β-nitrostyrenes
- Explored the scope of catalysis by generating a variety of β-OTs-oxime ester substrates for the generation of 2*H*-azirines via Neber cyclizations
- Determined the enantiopurity of reaction products using HPLC
- Interpreted 1D NMR and 2D NMR spectra, including HSQC, HMBC, and COSY to identify structures of reaction products

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin - Madison, Madison, Wisconsin ***Aug. 2022 - May 2023; Jan. 2024 – May 2024***
Teaching Assistant for Organic Chemistry
- Supervised class during wet-lab experiments and graded section assignments
- Facilitated open conversations and presented on current lab topic during discussion sessions
- Guided students towards success in lab reports and tests during office hours
- Created welcoming and accepting environments for undergraduate students to develop scientific skills

Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas ***Jan. 2021 - May 2022***
Peer-Led Team Learning (PLTL) Leader
- Directed weekly mentoring sessions for Physical Chemistry I (quantum mechanics) with two groups of 8-12 students
- Created detailed and relevant practice problems corresponding to the lecture material
- Maintained up-to-date information and facilitated peer-to-peer discussions, leading to problem-solving cooperation

College of Science Peer Mentor ***Aug. 2019 - May 2020***
- Met regularly with first-year chemistry undergraduates to provide advice and support during their acclimation into college
- Attended a weekly SCEN 289 course to implement designed lesson plans focusing on topics related to both success in academia and in social adult environments

COMMUNITY OUTREACH & LEADERSHIP

Graduate Recruitment Weekend, University of Wisconsin - Madison ***Feb. 2023 – March 2023; Feb. 2024 – March 2024***

- Assisted four recruits directly in navigating daily activities and in answering their immediate questions
- Attended social events to discuss post-undergraduate opportunities and first-year expectations
- Provided tours of the lab and of the NMR facility to the designated recruits

Aggie Shields, Texas A&M University ***Sep. 2017 – June 2022***

- Provided free textbooks to military college students and dependents through our lending library
- Delegated tasks to committee heads and met with organization advisors to coordinate financial structure of the organization
- Applied for grant funding dedicated to annual textbook purchases
- Scheduled social events and team-bonding experiences to facilitate and maintain member engagement within the organization
- Planned a barbeque fundraiser to support military college students

ADDITIONAL

Computational Skills: Introductory Gaussian, ORCA, and CFOUR inputs; basic understanding of Python and R in a mathematical/statistical environment
Languages: Entry-level conversational Spanish, basic conversational German

AWARDS

ACS Undergraduate Senior Award in Organic Chemistry (2022)

- Awarded to two senior chemistry undergraduates for exhibiting excellence in organic chemistry at the undergraduate level

Dow Aggie Scholarship (2021) - $1,200

- Given to outstanding chemistry majors of the junior or senior status; made available by Dow Chemical and its employees

Jaan Laane Academic Achievement Award (2021)

- Granted to two outstanding chemistry juniors, typically obtaining a B.S.

Dr. David W. Lipp ’66 Memorial Endowed Scholarship (2020, 2019) - $2,000

- Awarded to undergraduate students pursuing a degree in chemistry in good standing and enrolled full-time

Outstanding First Year Chemistry Student Award (2019)

- Presented to two exceptional chemistry students after completion of their first year within the chemistry program