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ACS Conference

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Being able to attend the ACS conference in San Diego, California was a great experience for several reasons. Most importantly, it helped me to learn skills that will be beneficial in the future, as I plan to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Virginia this upcoming fall. This was the first chemistry poster that I have had the opportunity to make about my research, which was based on an online analytical laboratory course that I helped develop in the Spring of 2021. I really enjoyed being at the poster session and communicating my research to a broader audience. I was unsure if people would be interested in my work, but I talked to many people and a few even asked for my email for more information about my research. It was a rewarding experience after putting in countless hours into developing this class. I also talked to many other undergraduate students from different places in the country about their research as well. Before completing my undergraduate education, I was very hesitant to present in front of people, and speaking in front of others was a weakness of mine. Throughout this experience and all of my other undergraduate experiences, I have learned to communicate my research and my own thoughts more clearly and have developed more confidence in myself and my speaking abilities. These skills will be crucial in the future, since I will be working on my own graduate research, which will include writing scientific papers, poster presentations, and discussing my research with my peers and supervisors.

I also had the chance to explore some of San Diego. In La Jolla Beach, we got to see the different wildlife that lives on the beach, including many seals and sea lions. I have only had this

type of experience at a zoo, so it was fascinating to see these animals in their natural habitat. San Diego is very different, from any other place I have been exposed to, such as Washington and Pittsburgh, so it was interesting to see a different way of life and a completely different area.

I had such an educational and rewarding experience in San Diego and I am very grateful that I was given this opportunity. I hope I am able to attend other ACS conferences in the future, when I am a graduate student presenting my work.

