

## Trip Report

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### 2022 Spring ACS Conference in San Diego, CA

The American Chemical Society Conference in San Diego provided a unique experience to not only present my research, but to dive headfirst into the science community. I travelled to the conference along with my professor, Dr. Baldauff, and two other students. Throughout our trip, our small group attended many speaker presentations, attended the graduate school fair and Expo, and presented our research projects.

Two of the most notable speakers for me were Dr. Donna Nelson and Dr. Burks. Dr. Nelson talked about her involvement with the TV show “Breaking Bad” and how media, such as shows and movies, can teach others about chemistry. Dr. Burks addressed the impact of forensic science on specific criminal cases. Since I am pursuing a forensic chemistry degree, Dr. Burks’ talk was extremely interesting to me as it highlighted the importance of chemistry in solving these crimes.

After listening to the speakers, my fellow students and I attended the graduate school fair to see what opportunities await us. I found it very helpful to hear various opinions about the types of schools and programs offering chemistry graduate programs. During the last day of our trip, we attended the Expo where we saw different scientific machines being promoted and displayed. The specialized chemistry tool dish washer sparked our interest because the idea of not having to wash our own glassware appealed to us students.

While the entire conference was very interesting, the most memorable experience for me during the trip was presenting my research on glyphosate. Talking to the science community about a project I have worked so hard on this last year made me excited to continue research and join new projects. I found the comments from people listening to me present as well as seeing how other students conducted their own experiments particularly helpful in furthering my education in science.

Presenting my research and attending the graduate school fair greatly impacted me. Both events forced me to begin thinking more in depth about my future. In particular, I began evaluating which graduate school I want to attend, whether I want a PhD or a master’s degree, and what type of research opportunities each school offers. Before attending the conference, I did not even realize that the type of research being performed in the graduate programs should be part of my decision.

I am extremely grateful for being provided this opportunity to attend the spring ACS conference in San Diego. Thank you for giving me this unforgettable learning experience.

