

I would like to thank the ACS Pittsburgh section for giving me the privilege to attend the 247<sup>th</sup> ACS National Meeting & Exposition held in Dallas, Texas from March 16-20, 2014. Due to the funds I received from the ACS Pittsburgh section student travel grant, I had the opportunity to travel to the conference. As a graduating undergraduate senior chemistry major at Saint Francis University, the conference helped me broaden my professional connections and perspectives of the field of chemistry. My main purpose for travelling was to present my research, but I also used the opportunity to attend talks related to my research interests. I presented a poster entitled "Powder Analysis of Acid Mine Drainage Precipitate" co-authored by Dallas Mosier (SFU undergrad), Taylor Spangler (SFU undergrad), Edward P. Zovinka (research advisor), and William Strosnider (co-advisor). As my research advisor's research interest is in inorganic chemistry and green chemistry, I became involved in studying the chemistry of Acid Mine Drainage and the remediation types both in Pennsylvania and in Potosi, Bolivia, focusing on the study of mine wastes to determine the identity and concentrations of toxic pollutants. I presented the analysis of soil samples and precipitates that were collected from Acid Mine Drainage remediation and an old silver mine waste landfill. The soil samples were analyzed using Powder X-Ray Diffraction (PXRD), and Scanning Electron Microscope with Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (SEM-EDS).

My poster presentation went as well as I planned it and I also had a chance to meet professionals in the field, who gave me their suggestions that would help me in my future work. While at the meeting I was able to attend some of the talks that I thought would help me in my research and other areas in which I am interested. In particular, I found out about the grant program for submitting samples to Argonne National Laboratory 11-BM for high resolution powder diffraction. The information will be useful as other undergraduates continue on my project. While attending the talks, I was able to meet some of the highly respected chemists in their field. This type of opportunity is very rare, where all the professionals in my field of interest would be at the same place. Also at the meeting there were workshops and a job fair where students can apply for a job and get a chance to see what type of opportunities there are in the field of chemistry. At the ACS meeting I met students from different schools, who had different experiences. Thus, I had the opportunity to interact and get positive ideas that could benefit me and the SFU Chemistry department.

While in Dallas, TX I also walked over to Dealey Plaza, the John Fitzgerald Kennedy Memorial, and the Sixth Floor Museum at Dealey Plaza. Overall my travel to the ACS National Meeting & Exposition was full of educational, historical and entertaining events. The opportunity that the ACS Pittsburgh section provides students is not limited to funding the travel to the conference, but also it gives the opportunity for students like me to experience the professional world, expand their professional network, and explore. So I would like to thank the ACS Pittsburgh section for a memorable and valuable opportunity through the travel grant.