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ACS Summary Spring 2016

This spring I attended the 251st ACS National Meeting in San Diego, California with the help of the ACS Pittsburgh Section. This was the first ACS meeting I have attended. I was very excited to see what it had to offer, and I was not disappointed. There were numerous people to meet and countless events and symposiums to take part in.

The main reason for attending this event was to present my research poster, "Metals in Mushrooms of Western Pennsylvania," in the Undergraduate Research poster session with about 2,000 of my peers. This was a wonderful opportunity. I had the chance to talk to various people who were interested in my findings. I also had the chance to talk with other students presenting posters.

While there were many symposiums to choose from, my favorite lecture series I listened to was the "Analytical Methodologies and Research Partnerships at the Interface of Chemistry and Art/Archeology." This series focused on art, but it also focused on collaborating with different fields other than chemistry. There were many great speaker and topics, but my favorite was the "Technical Investigation of Josef Albers's 'Casa' series by X-ray Fluorescence Spectroscopy and Imaging Studies" presented by Robert Bachman. In this talk, Bachman spoke about a painting in which the artist focused on color and geometry. The artist recorded all of the colors and brands of paints he used and where in his painting he used them on the back of his paintings. Bachman's research focused on analyzing the paint.

Along with this symposium, I attended the international reception where I had the chance to talk to a student about her research she had conducted in Germany, and I also had the opportunity to network with many people. I also attended the Women's Chemist Committee breakfast. This was great for meeting women chemists like myself. The breakfast also consisted of a presentation about online presence and what should and should not be posted online.

Overall I had an amazing time at the meeting this year, and I look forward to attending meetings in the future. I want to thank the ACS Pittsburgh section for providing the funds that allowed me to go.



