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2018 AIChE Southeastern Research Conference

Baton Rouge, LA.

With the help of the Shackouls Honors College, I was able to present my research at the Undergraduate Poster Competition for the AIChE Southeastern Conference at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For the past year, I have done research under tutelage of Dr. Keith Hollis and Min Zhang in the Department of Chemistry. I have studied novel organometallic molecules known as CCC-NHC pincer complexes that, when metalated with various kinds of transition metals, have a variety of different applications, from organic light emitting diodes to catalytic carbon dioxide reduction.

This semester the Honors College gave me a grant to travel to LSU to participate at the Poster Competition. As a freshman, this was my first poster competition, and because I am interested in attending graduate school, this conference gave me an opportunity to see what exactly it means to be a researcher. Throughout the three-day event, I had the opportunity to network with upperclassmen who had dived deeper into my field of interest, and I also had a chance to develop connections with professors and graduate school recruiters who were deeply interested in my research. Although I was one of the youngest ones there, I was thoroughly able to explain my work and answered questions with detail. I attended multiple talks such as “Diving Deeper into Organometallic Synthesis”, “The Importance of Sound Public Policy in Engineering”, and “Carbon Sequestration and Utilization.” These talks gave me a chance not only to explore my own field of work, but they also gave me a chance to gain understanding in interdisciplinary works such as Engineering and Public Policy.

This conference was one of the highlights of this year, and the fact that the Honors College funded me is a testament of the Mississippi State University’s ideal of promoting academia among undergraduates. I gained a myriad of experiences by attending this conference and had a chance to network with several professional and graduate programs.