

Travel Report—GWIS

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University of Rochester's Graduate Women in Science partially sponsored my travel to two conferences held earlier this month (July 2007). The first conference was a meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students held in Lindau, Germany and the second conference was the International Conference on Biological Inorganic Chemistry (ICBIC) held in Vienna, Austria.

The Meeting of Nobel Laureates and Students was the 57th annual meeting of its kind where 500 students from around the world are chosen to attend and interact with Nobel prize winners. At this meeting 17 Nobel Laureates were present. The meeting consisted of scientific lectures from the Nobel Laureates in the mornings and discussion sessions in the afternoons. As an American delegate I also had the opportunity to have lunch and dinner with some of the Laureates. Additionally there were many opportunities to talk with students from around the world about science in general or about particular research topics. As a whole the meeting allowed us as students to foster international scientific communication. The meeting also afforded the opportunity to hear from great minds in science and to get their opinions on the current state of science and how to succeed in science. It was invaluable to hear how they persevered throughout their careers.

At ICBIC I had the opportunity to present my work for the first time at a conference in the form of a poster. It was an excellent opportunity to practice my scientific discussion skills and to have a scientific give and take with experts in my field. Throughout the conference I was able to attend talks within my sub-discipline and also outside of it. This offered the opportunity to learn about the most recent work in my field and to learn about advances in other branches of science. The knowledge that I was able to take away from this conference will be shared with my coworkers.

Both conferences provided ample time for discussion, networking and creating new contacts. I thoroughly enjoyed learning from others through presentations, posters and discussions. The experience of presenting my own work has prepared me to do so in the future. I would like to thank GWIS for their part in sponsoring both of these trips.