

2006-2007 MIE-STEM FACULTY MINI-GRANTS

2006-2007 STUDENT RESEARCH ASSISTANT

“Elucidating the Evolution of Alternative Spliced Exons within the Arthropod Lineage of the DSCAM Family”

The Center for Undergraduate Research (CUR): How did you find out about working on this research proposal?

Ian Woods (IW): I was a student in my current mentor’s (Dr. DiMaggio) class. I was very interested in organic chemistry because she made it interesting so I asked her if I could do any kind of work with her. With that, she told me about a new research project she was working on and welcomed me to join her team.

CUR: What is your contribution to this proposal?

IW: I make dendrimers for the lovely doctor. We are making dendrimers to be used as transfection agents of carcinogenic drugs and gene therapy. My colleges and I make the different generations of dendrimers so they can hopefully be tagged with what needs to be transfected.

CUR: How does this proposal fit into your academic and social schedule?

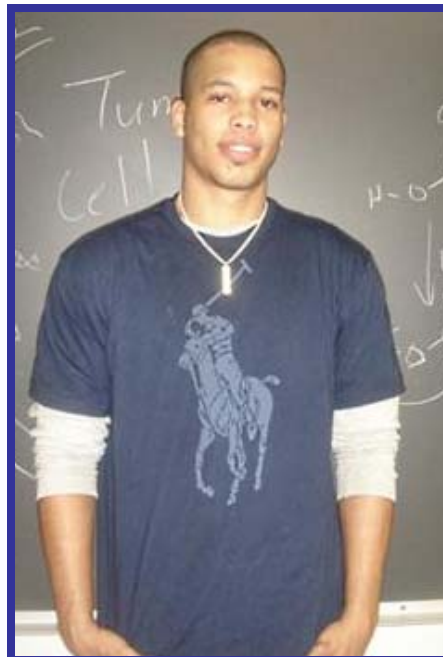
IW: My research fits well with both my academic and social schedule. It’s all about making time for the research. I wouldn’t be doing it if I didn’t enjoy it, therefore, I make time for it.

CUR: Will this proposal assist you in your future academic/or career plans? If so, explain.

IW: I feel it will. Working in a research lab gives us hands-on experience on what it’s like to be in a lab and it actually gives you a better understanding of the subject matter. The best way to learn is through hands-on experience

CUR: Do you have any recommendations for future student assistants who will work in a similar field?

IW: I recommend research to all students who are science majors, whether you are doing biology or physics research. You’ll definitely gain valuable experience and you’ll definitely feel like you’re working on something new. Science in general is always changing and new discoveries are made every day.



IAN WOODS

CLASSIFICATION	SENIOR
AGE	21
MAJOR & MINOR	BIOLOGY (CHEMISTRY)
HOMETOWN	ST. THOMAS, VIRGIN ISLANDS

For this reason, science needs people that love it and hope to make a difference in its different fields of study.