

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?

Katherine Byrd (KB): I told Dr. Birdwhistell that I was interested in drug chemistry and she told me a little about Dr. DiMaggio’s project. I called Dr. DiMaggio and she told me more about the project and said that she had openings in her lab.

CUR: What is your contribution to this proposal?

KB: To help create the PAMAM dendrimers that we are studying.

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

KB: I schedule my research hours around the classes that I take. After that, I use whatever free time I have left on social activities.

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

KB: The way in which this project will help me in my future goals is that it will give me experience in working in a chemistry lab. In my previous year, I had only worked in biology labs. This experience is great because I plan on pursuing a degree in pharmacology.

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

KB: First, do your homework about either the project that you are interested in working on or about doing research in general. It is important that you know what you are getting into. Second, if you want to pursue a career in research, try to get as much experience as possible at the undergraduate level.



KATHERINE BYRD

CLASSIFICATION	JUNIOR
AGE	21
MAJOR & MINOR	BIOCHEMISTRY
HOMETOWN	DETROIT, MI