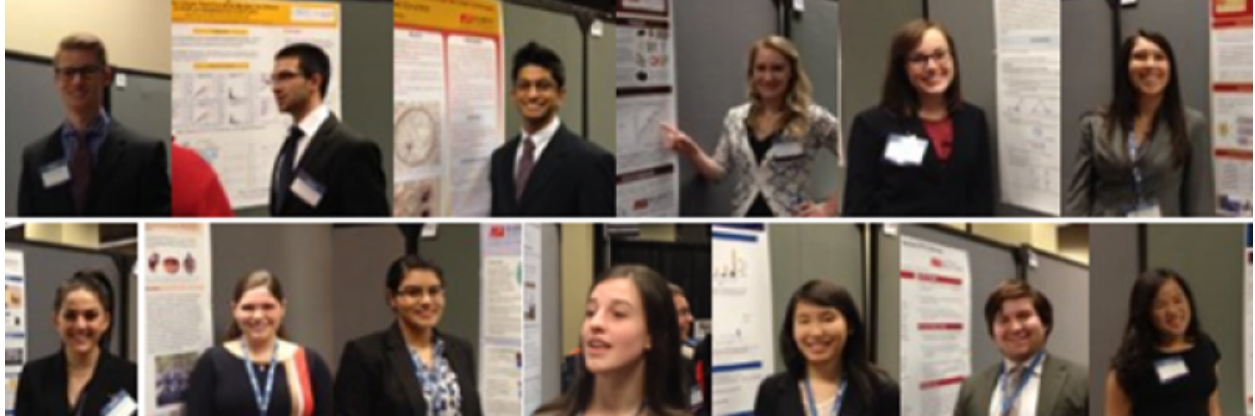
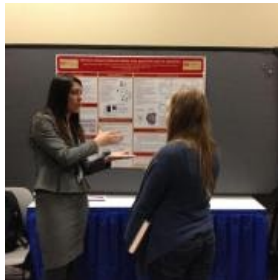


AAAS and Center for Biology and Society

2014 Meeting



2014 AAAS Students

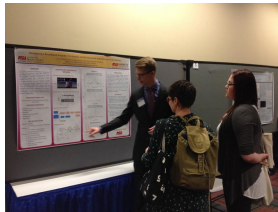


Julia Anglin

"It was a great privilege to attend and present my research at the AAAS conference. This was my first scientific meeting and I truly had no idea how much fun it is to attend a conference! Sharing the research that I have been conducting at ASU at the student poster session was a great benefit to me. Being able to concisely relay scientific information is an important tool that I am striving to develop and this gave me the chance to cultivate this skill. In addition, the poster session gave me the chance to receive important feedback on my research and network with people within my field. The meeting was a wonderful place to listen and learn from experts within my field of study as well as hear from researches in other disciplines that I may not otherwise have been exposed to. I attended lectures ranging from topics on understanding the human brain, addiction and big data which will directly benefit me in my academic career path. I also attended lectures on fracking and global warming that allows me to be a well-rounded scientist. The most memorable talk I attended was a plenary given by Alan Alda. Alan Alda is not a scientist, but he effectively informed scientists on how to relay science to

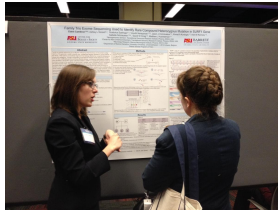
non-experts in a way that is understandable and clear. This is an important issue as many individuals outside of the scientist community may misinterpret scientific findings leading to misinformed medical decisions, public policy and other important issues. I took away many good ideas from this talk as well as the other sessions I attended.

Thank you to The Center for Biology and Society as well as Barrett the Honors College giving me the opportunity to have this wonderful experience."



Jared Becker

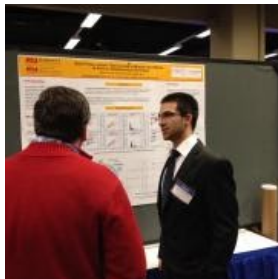
"The 2014 AAAS Annual Meeting was a phenomenal experience I will forever cherish as a highlight of my academic career. The opportunity to present my research at a sensational conference with people from various backgrounds was the pinnacle of my senior year. I learned how to professionally present my research to people from varying backgrounds, the value of attending a conference, and about so many different areas of scientific research. The session that stood out to me was a study on how various proteins affect long term and short term memory. The brain is a fascinating organ in the human body that is indeed the last frontier of the study of human anatomy. To gain more insight about how the brain works was intriguing and has sparked an interest for me to learn more about neuroscience. In the future I will try to network more with people about their research. As my first conference, I did not do as well as I could have in terms of meeting people and finding out how to get involved in their area of research, but I know that the next conference I attend I will do a better job. The poster competition was valuable because it forced me to thoroughly understand my research and explain it clearly and concisely to people unfamiliar with my research area. Overall I would like to thank The Center for Biology and Society, as well as Barrett, The Honors College, for the opportunity to represent their organizations and present my research at the 2014 AAAS Annual Meeting."



Claire Cambron

"Our trip to Chicago and the AAAS conference surpassed my expectations in so many ways. The city was busy and exciting with such a cool sense of culture captured through their public art and architecture. I enjoyed getting to explore. I found the conference especially meaningful due to its diversity and breadth. It was catered toward a broad audience of scientists, and as a result, I could follow every talk that I attended, and I gained something from each one. That was my favorite part. I attended several talks over our visit. My favorite was one on solitary confinement, which featured a diverse panel of scientists and even one man who had been in solitary confinement for 29 years. It was interesting to learn more about the moral implications of the practice as well as the terrible neurological impact it has on a person. Otherwise, I attended several talks that focused on different aspects of genetic research, such as epigenetics, differences in gene expression in male and female rats, and the challenge of privatizing a person's genetic information.

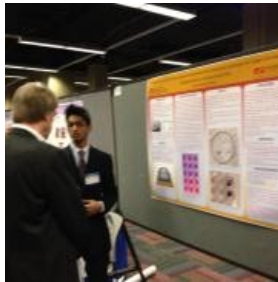
I have always enjoyed conferences because I look forward to the opportunity to share my research and learn from other scientists as well. I think conferences that focus on collaboration and teaching such as this one are incredibly productive and I learned a lot from presenting my poster and attending the lectures. I think it's very important to challenge scientists to present because the communication gaps that exist between different areas of science as well as science and the public pose the biggest challenges for scientific progress."



Alexi Choueiri

"Attending the AAAS Meeting in Chicago is definitely an experience to remember. Exploring the city of Chicago and networking with scientists was just the icing on the cake. The biggest highlight was making new friends who have a passion for research and learning. AAAS taught me the effort scientists make in exchanging their ideas in an attempt to collaborate and push the frontiers of science. The best part was the number of individuals who attended from an international background, since it demonstrated the extent scientists take to congregate in one area. There was a diverse amount of

fascinating sessions, giving me an opportunity to learn from all facets of science. I attended a session that discussed how research can be translated into the realm of business and how to be an entrepreneur as a scientist. It gave me a unique perspective on how the application of science in the business world can have a huge impact on technology and medicine. It made me question how I can deliver scientific research to impact communities. AAAS gave me a positive impression on scientific conferences, making me eager to attend conferences whenever possible to network and learn from passionate scientists. The poster competition taught me how to present myself and my research in a concise manner to a variety of audiences. Receiving feedback on my research and performance from top scientists was critical in cultivating my skill set as a researcher. I would repeat my entire AAAS experience all over again and enjoy every second of it."



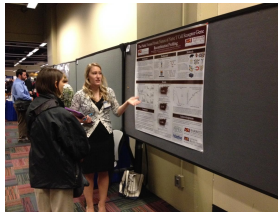
Abhishek Dharan

"Thanks to the support of the Center for Biology and Society and Barrett, The Honors College, I was fortunate enough to attend the 2014 AAAS Annual Meeting in Chicago. As a graduating senior this was a phenomenal experience that I will never forget. Before the AAAS Annual Meeting I had never attended a research conference and was unsure of what to expect. As part of the ASU group attending the meeting I was given the support and guidance needed to prepare for this experience from the Center for Biology and Society. These meetings also helped me form relationships with my ASU peers also attending the conference.

Once in Chicago we were free to travel between the different sessions of the conference so we could hear whatever talks piqued our interest. The variety of fields represented at the various sessions was exciting since it allowed us to learn so much from talks outside our field of study ranging from genome hacking to public policy making for scientists. The talk that I found especially helpful to me was the session on the Fulbright Grant, which I hope to apply for in the future. The poster session was also a great learning experience because I gained critical skills in public speaking and presenting technical

knowledge to people outside my field. The highlight of the conference was finding out an ASU faculty member I had presented my work to especially well was one of my judges for the student poster competition - I had no idea!

After returning from this conference there are many lessons I have learned to help me better navigate future conferences. In the future I will definitely be more assertive in developing contacts and relationships with other researchers. Overall this conference was a huge success thanks to the support from my research mentors, the Center for Biology and Society, and Barrett, The Honors College."

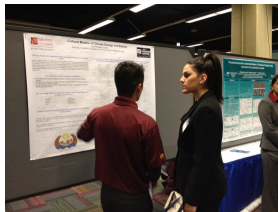


Marlene
Garcie-Neuer

"I think the best thing about the conference was that I got to learn about a lot of new techniques and research that was going on at other institutions. I really like the sessions because it gave me the opportunity to learn about techniques and areas of research which I would not have heard about in the classroom at ASU. It was also great to chat with the researchers in person and have discussion about their research! My favorite session that I attended was one on Noncoding RNA and it's functions in disease and cancer. The speakers were both excellent and we were able to have a great group discussion about the future of their research. I also attended the Epigenetics in Brain and Behavior sessions which was also really interesting, however due to the terrible weather on the east coast all of the speakers couldn't make and had to give there presentation through gotomeeting. Go technology! The poster conference was great because I got to chat with very many people who were interested in my research! One of those interested people was from the Baylor School of Medicine and was interested in my sequencing techniques since he is working with a project where he is sequencing bacteria that have been in space! This was also a great opportunity for me to talk about my work and have lively discussions about my techniques, and past and present research. The poster presentation also gave me the opportunity to see other peoples view on my research and their

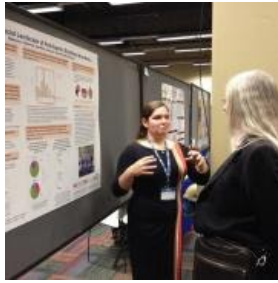
doubts and suggestions that I would not normally get in my own lab.

I feel that I definitely learned to express myself research better and also how to talk about my research on different levels. The poster session was also open to the public so I had a few curious people with little to no scientific background! It was fun switching from basic science to having to answer really in depth questions!"



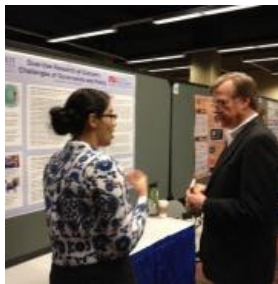
Rachel Gur-Arie

"I had the TIME OF MY LIFE on this trip. To be able to explore an amazing city in addition to attending & presenting at one of the most important annual scientific conferences globally was a once in a lifetime experience that I am so grateful. I attended many informative sessions, but the one that stood out to me in particular was one on perception that Pew & Gallup put on. Maybe it was because it is so similar to the work I am doing for my thesis, but I felt like I really had a connection to the work they were presenting. It showed me that I will find the right career one day, but more importantly, it showed me that what I am passionate about it valuable and viable. I always felt that because I seem to be the only one interested in what I am that I would not be able to find a career that gave back to the community and was rewarding. I also really appreciated the emphasis on the interdisciplinary aspect of science. That's what I'm all about, and I love how they were spreading the message of having people expand their views regarding what science is. It was as if the people who were in the lectures I attended were on the same page as me...or I was on the same page as them. That is more like it. Plus, when we weren't attending lectures or presenting, we got to do a tiny bit of Chicago exploring. This trip showed me that I BELONG IN A CITY! Oh my gosh. I have grown up 10 minutes south of ASU, and now I attend ASU. Even though I love Arizona and everything it has to offer, this trip showed me to value and IMPORTANCE of travel. To travel is to live!"



Rebecca Harkness

"I found this experience extremely enriching and rewarding. Being able to interact at an international level with some of the best people in their respective fields all in one place is amazing. I was able to go to many different sessions that I would not have been able to at an archaeology conference. Being able to see how different disciplines approach different topics was invaluable. I was able to see that in climate science they look back at historical records, but not so much the archaeological record which I believe is something that could benefit them. The student poster competition was also a wonderful experience because I was able to interact with so many people that I normally would not have been able to. I talked to a physicist and an immunologist who had a side interest in ceramics and the area my study took place. It was really cool. Basically this conference is awesome and they should keep funding people to go."

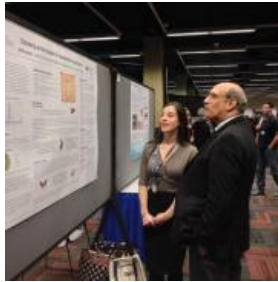


Manmeet Kaur

"I felt the AAAS conference was a great experience! Not only did the poster presentation provide me with valuable feedback for my research, but it also gave me many ideas and directions for further expanding and enriching my work. I was fortunate to be able to meet and network with experts who were more than willing to discuss and even guide with my research in the future. Also, learning about the background of the experts I met really provided insight on how these researchers developed their careers to cater to their research interests. Furthermore, the ability to discuss my research with such a wide variety of people, from students, interested public, to experts, also expanded my public speaking skills. This enabled me to articulate my research with different levels of technicalities and background information.

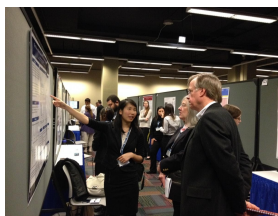
In addition, the ability to attend the wide variety of sessions the AAAS conference offered was a very unique opportunity. I was able to revisit and expand my knowledge related to my past psychology research and learn different dimensions to my current research related to international pandemic preparedness policies. I was also able to attend sessions on interesting topics I had little to no knowledge on. All the

sessions were very engaging and being able to learn from well-renowned experts was great. The extensive scope of the sessions really provided the opportunity to learn new information about almost any topic of interest! It honestly was an honor to be a part of this conference. The intersection of so many important scientific research topics made the potential to learn limitless!"



Anika Larson

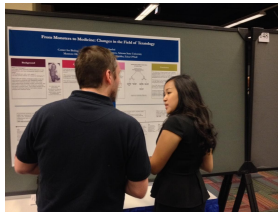
"I was very glad I went - the poster session was my first time ever presenting, and I think it was an ideal first venue. I got some specific criticism on my poster from someone in my field who wasn't a judge, which was great for my research moving forward. The judges themselves weren't from my field, so I was able to get through the first judging experience without too much stress. I went to a few poster sessions on infectious disease management, which is the field I would like to go into and the topic I will be doing research on next year, and got a lot of updated information about infectious disease policy and recent pandemics. I also went to a few on research policy and funding for basic research to get more background for my poster. Overall, the conference was a great introduction to poster presenting (especially as a first experience) and the panels were definitely informative, even with half the speakers Skyping in for most of them due to the weather. I also loved spending the weekend with other students who were all excited about and active in research, and getting to know people in different fields and majors. The trip was definitely valuable for me, and I would love to see it continue and be able to go again next year!"



Ellen Qin

"Going to Chicago for the AAAS was a wonderful experience! I got to meet motivated and talented students from both ASU and all over the world, to attend seminars presented by well-renowned professors from many different disciplines, and to present my own research at the conference. My favorite seminar was Dr. Steven Chu's lecture on energy. Through this conference, I was able to learn the ins and outs of what to do

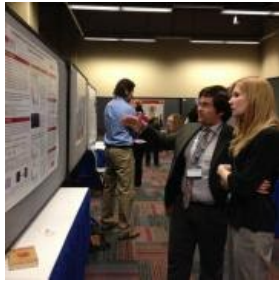
and how to attend a conference. In particular, I learned how important networking is, and I enjoyed talking to others from various fields of scientific research. Presenting at the student poster competition allowed me to not only communicate to others on what I have been doing, but it was also a way for me to gather other people's insight on my research. I was able to leave the competition with new ideas on how I should approach the next steps of my research. After attending the AAAS conference, I am more excited, and I feel more confident about going to additional conferences in the future!"



**Chanapa
Tantibanchacai**

"It is safe to say that attending the AAAS 2014 Annual Meeting was the most memorable and rewarding experiences of my undergraduate career thus far. The environment was invigorating; being among so many professionals and fellow science enthusiasts challenged me to think about my current and future contributions in science. Presenting my research on the national level was nerve-racking at first, but the experience truly pushed me to better understand my work and helped improve my public speaking skills. I left the poster competition with incredible feedback and encouragement, and felt validated in my work.

Aside from the poster competition and the sessions I attended, I also participated in the National Association of Science Writers mentoring program, where I was paired up with a senior science writer and received invaluable advice on how to find work as a science writer, which is my ultimate goal upon graduation. Through that program, I also received a press pass for the meeting and was able to see the ins and outs of the press behind AAAS."



Andrew Widener

"I really enjoyed the poster presentation section because I got to talk about my project with viewers and because I didn't feel glued to my stand. I got to talk to other students and go through the exhibits to get free stuff!"