

Grecia G. De La Cerda

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Education

The University of Texas at Austin (UT), Austin, TX
Bachelor of Science & Arts in Biology

May 2020

Research Interests

In my brief research experience, I have studied the genetic, cellular, and organic chemical processes that take place within the human body and microorganisms. The bulk of my research experience within the ARI program, has been in the development of a portable UV-vis spectrophotometer that will allow for on the field detection of Tartaric, Malic, and Citric Acid found in grapes to make high quality wines. While the research is geared towards a marketable product, it is a subset of work under Dr. Eric Anslyn that uses these same detection methods of acids in the creation of taste buds that mimic the human tongue. I hope to use the skills I learned in lab to study Malaria and pathogenic organisms still found in developing countries.

Experience/ Internships

Texas Athletics- Longhorn Foundation

Student Assistant of Donor Relations

Austin, TX

Sept. 2017-Present

- The Longhorn Foundation is the fundraising arm of Texas Athletics and provides support for student athletes both on and off the field.
- Assisted in the logistics of planning large events
- Assisted in public relations and hosting current and future contributors of Texas Athletics

Accelerated Research Initiative (ARI)

Austin, TX

Jan. 2019- Present

Undergraduate Researcher under Dr. Eric V. Anslyn and Dr. Pedro Metola

- Conducted research under the direct supervision of Dr. Metola to create a portable UV-vis spectrophotometer
- Created Indicator Displacement Assays for detection of Tartaric Acid
- Presented posters to undergraduates, graduate students, and professors at the Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Participated in discussions pertaining to research progress and determined what areas needed improvement

Texas Institute for Discovery Education in Science (TIDES)

Austin, TX

Jun. 2019- May 2020

Undergraduate Research Mentor

- Aid incoming students in learning scientific skills of inquiry
- Foster academic growth both inside and outside of the laboratory environment
- Teach students that experiments fail but offer a step towards the right direction

Leadership & Involvement

University Leadership Network
Member

The University of Texas at Austin

Aug. 2016- Present

- Students possess “Grit” as they face challenges in academia
- Cultivates leadership skills and prepares students through experiential learning opportunities

Texas Interdisciplinary Plan (TIP)
Member

The University of Texas at Austin

Aug. 2016-Present

- A small academic community created by UT for students within the College of Natural Science that encourages academic excellence and cultivates intellectual growth

Camp Kesem Member/ Camp Counselor	The University of Texas at Austin	Sept.2017- Present
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- A Non-profit providing a week of camp for children affected by a parent's cancer
- Actively fundraised throughout the year
- Participated in events throughout the year, emotionally supporting children through family hardships

Gates Millennium Scholars of Austin Member	The University of Texas at Austin	Sept.2016-Present
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- Allows for students to remain connected to peers and advisors to uphold the mission of The Gates Millennium Scholars Program funded by Bill & Melinda Gates

Community Service

Susan G. Komen Austin "Race for a Cure" Volunteer	Austin, TX	Sept. 25, 2016
Archer's Challenge Participant	Austin, TX	Oct. 12, 2016
Eagle Pass Arts Council Children's Theatre Volunteer/ Assistant Director	Eagle Pass, TX	Summer 2012- Present

Honors/Awards

Gates Millennium Scholarship Recipient	Hispanic Scholarship Fund
Ford Driving Dreams (LULAC)	University Leadership Network

Skills

- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word & PowerPoint)
- Proficient in Spanish (fluent)