Jessica Lau

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**Education**

**August 2016 – May 2020**, *University of Texas at Austin*

Bachelor of Arts in neuroscience and a minor in computer science

*Relevant coursework*: organic chemistry, neural systems, genetics, physics, game development, mobile computing, synaptic physiology, programming and data analysis for modern neuroscience, graphics and visualization, web programming.

**Research Experience**

**August 2018 – May 2019, January 2020 – May 2020**, *Student researcher*

I worked as a student researcher under the supervision of Dr. Hitoshi Morikawa. My responsibilities included managing, feeding, running, performing cocaine and food conditioned place preference sessions, and training other students to assume my responsibilities as I left for the summer. I also practiced electrophysiology and recorded neurons from the nucleus accumbens in mice. I collected both conditioning and electrophysiology data for Dr. Morikawa’s research.

**May 2019 – June 2019**, *Japan Maymester Study Abroad program*

I was accepted into the study abroad program Advanced Nanotechnology and Innovation for Beginners in Japan. We travelled abroad as a group of students under a supervising professor and partnered with a local university to host our classes. We met with Japanese guides and international representatives and were able to tour laboratories and R&D departments of companies such as NTT Docomo and TEL.

**August 2018 – December 2019**, *Neuroscience Undergraduate Reading Program*

I applied for the NURP program in August and after being accepted, I was paired with a graduate student to study under. We coordinated a shared subject of interest and met every week to discuss scientific articles. I also shadowed him around his lab as he did research into Fragile X syndrome using electrophysiology techniques. At the end of the semester, I presented a summary of what we discussed throughout the semester in front of the faculty of NURP, other students, and other graduate students.

**May 2018 – June 2018**, *Summer research paid mentor*

I mentored a group of high school students receiving course credit through a program partnered with the university. My work was teaching them the proper handling of lab property, explaining the purpose of the techniques I demonstrated, and assisting them with their final papers.

**January 2018 – May 2018**, *FRI research mentor*

My duties included mentoring incoming freshman in the FRI program and overseeing their use of various lab materials. I also demonstrated the proper use of equipment, how to safely execute various techniques, restocked various chemicals around the lab, and maintained cleanliness and safety.

**Summer 2017**, *Summer Research Fellowship*

Over the summer, I was assigned a specific ligand to synthesize. Every week I presented my progress and results to the entire team and became more skillful in conveying information and progress effectively.

**January 2017 – December 2017**, *Freshman Research Initiative (FRI)*

I joined the FRI program and chose the Bioactive Molecules research stream led by Dr. Elizabeth Ilardi. As a freshman, I practiced the basics of laboratory work and after the completion of several individual experiments, developed a better sense of laboratory safety and technique.

**Honors and Awards**

**January 2019 – May 2019**, *University Honors*

I was placed on the list of University Honors and was recognized for completing a full course load in residence and earning outstanding grades.

**Technical and Personal Skills**

**Languages:** English, Chinese.

**Programming Languages:** *Basic ability with:* R, Python, JavaScript, HTML, Swift.

**Industry Software Skills:** ChemDraw, MestreNova, PyMol, MS Office products, Aseprite, Tiled, XCode, GitHub, Processing, Jupyter Lab, and MySQL.

**Interests and Extra-Curricular Activities**

I have been playing concert-level piano and violin from an early age and have received multiple awards for my playing.

*Other interests include:* learning Dvorak method of typing, assembling figurines, playing table tennis, reading and writing poetry, collecting keyboards, and watercolor.

ELEMENTUM: I contributed towards a browser game hosted on public domain called Elementum with two other students in the fall of 2019.

**References**

Available upon request