

PERSONAL HISTORY STATEMENT

I was a lucky girl who had a science museum as her playground. My family lived near the National Museum of Natural Science. I visited the museum almost every week when I was little. I took notes on every visit, recording new and interesting discoveries in the exhibitions. I will never forget how excited I was when I first learned about the evolution of birds from dinosaurs, the Fibonacci series in biological patterns, and the total reflection shown by a green laser in the water flow. These experiences gave me a lasting wonder of the natural world. Additionally, the best part of learning science in a museum was doing experiments by myself. This gave me concrete knowledge and also inspired my interest in experimental research, which is why I decided to major in chemistry.

Another of my early interests was art design. I earned awards in numerous art competitions before entering college. Now, this experience assists greatly in my academic and extracurricular work. The patience and care I learned from making complicated art help me in accomplishing many tasks, especially in lab work. Additionally, I have led many group art productions including a department exhibition in the Azalea Festival and school drama set designs. Leading group art productions differs from individual projects. Group productions require skills to integrate various styles and encourage people to bring in new ideas. I learned how to give concrete and simple directions to help team members to accomplish the goal. Moreover, I realized that great success comes from a diverse team. And I am confident that I can lead such a team to success.

Besides chemistry, I am also passionate about animals. Their amazing behavior represents a masterpiece of nature. I was a volunteer in the Taipei Zoological Foundation. Besides designing games that educate children about animal conservation, I joined in academic discussions that I found intriguing myself. I am curious to know if there is more to animal behavior than ecological explanations alone. For example, I want to know what decides the 17 and 13 year life cycles of periodical cicadas in addition to the two coprime numbers being the result of avoiding each other's breeding year. The answers to these questions lie in a microscopic rather than a macroscopic scale. With my chemistry background, I believe I can make a unique contribution in such animal behavior studies.

I have been fascinated by the delicate designs in biological systems. Having a career that uncovers the mysteries in nature will be the fulfillment of my life's dream. I look forward to conducting interdisciplinary research of animal behavior. From my experience in group art projects, I am confident in my ability in leading scientists from different fields for collaborated research. I am determined to pursue a Ph. D. degree to prepare myself with the necessary knowledge and academic connections. Thus I hope to conduct my graduate studies in the University of California, Berkeley.