

Message from President Cook

November 22, 2023

Hi everybody. I'm here with Emily Giere, an undergraduate student at NDSU. We're going to talk a little bit about undergraduate education and specifically undergraduate research. So, Emily tell us a little bit about yourself. Where are you from? I am from Spicer, Minnesota. It's a very small town. Sure. Where's it by? It's like 45 minutes south of St Cloud. Oh, okay. Yeah, very good. What year are you? I'm a senior this year. Senior this year. So, congratulations you're almost there. Almost.

Yeah so, what are you studying? What my field of study is biological sciences with a minor in chemistry and also a minor in theater. Which is awesome. Yeah, you got a lot going on. I love that. So, I want to talk about the research side but I got to ask you. Theater.

Have you been involved with theater for a long time and what do you do here at NDSU with theater? I have been involved since about third grade. I kind of took a break when I came here because I wanted to focus a little bit more on my studies and stuff like that. Just a lot of fun? Yeah. Yeah, we love going to the theater. It's a lot of fun.

So, all right, remind us again what are those majors again? I'm a biological sciences major with a minor in chemistry and a minor in theater.

Okay and why did you choose that major and those minors?

I chose the theater minor because I wanted to have some extra fun in college and I chose biological sciences and chemistry because it fits really well with a premed and so that's what I am. Even though there's no real degree for a premed student. So, that's what I am. Yeah, that is really cool. We love it.

So, why did you choose kind of these areas of study at NDSU? I chose them at NDSU in particular because the research opportunities here were very good and I heard very good things about your biology department and your chemistry department from past students. I love it.

So, talk a little bit more about the research the kind of things that you're doing that are fun and that get you excited. Oh gosh, I do lots of different things in my lab. Currently, we are doing lots of stuff in a glove box. It's where you kind of stick your arms in this nitrogen atmosphere and do lots of different measuring stuff with like five pounds of gloves on your hands. It's challenging but it's very fun. So, with the major and couple of minors and with everything you're involved with, you've just got to be busy all day long. I think I'm on campus for like 12 hours a day almost every day of the week. And so, this idea we talked about this before, that when you did the, when you came with your family and visited campus we talked about undergraduate research.

So, this is something you've been interested in for a long time. Yes, yes, I have been interested in research for a long time because I like to problem-solve, so. There you go. Was there a moment when you're in high school or growing up where you thought, man research is the kind of thing I want to do? I think it was when I was doing anatomy and physiology in 11th grade. Okay. Yep, I was like this is kind of fun to do. And that might have got you interested in medicine. I'm guessing a little bit here, too. Yes, it did.

One knee replacement surgery video and I was hooked. There you go. We got to do more knee replacement surgeries. I don't know if that would work for me but that's awesome.

So, what would you say to your peers or other students here about getting involved with research? It's very easy to get involved in research here at NDSU. I did it just through my organic chemistry lab. I got my position here. And I think it's very informative, very fun. We do a research day and so you get to go around and look at all the other research in the chemistry departments and the biochem and regular bio and stuff like that. So, it's very informative. So, let's mention a few of the faculty because you've mentioned that a number of them, in one way or another, have got you involved.

So, who do you work with now? I work under Dr. Zhao right now. Dr. Zhao, go ahead. The graduate student I work under is Benjamin LeBeau and I've worked under Hari before. Yeah. Otherwise, that's kind of it, I guess. That's pretty good though. A lot of different opportunities through all the years and a lot of faculty that are out there getting our students involved with research which we love. So, this is very exciting.

So, you already kind of alluded to it but when you graduate what do you want to do? I would like to go into a field of medicine. Okay, do you know which field? I'm thinking surgery as of right now but it might change tomorrow you never know. Well, that's good though. So, the knee surgery got you hooked early. Yes, it did, yes it did. love it.

Well, this has been a lot of fun. Thanks for chatting with me today and for everybody out there, it's just an awesome way of helping people understand kind of the many paths that our students can get involved with. One of the things we're really proud of as a Research 1 is the fact that undergraduate students can hit the ground running and get involved with research and it really enriches the overall experience for them and so for that, we're pretty excited. We're excited to hear your story. I'm very proud of you and good luck the rest of the way.

Thank you so much. All right, we got to do this.

Go Bison!