

A “Bond” Not Broken With Blindness

The importance of Accommodation and Encouraging
Students with Disabilities to Pursue Careers in the Sciences

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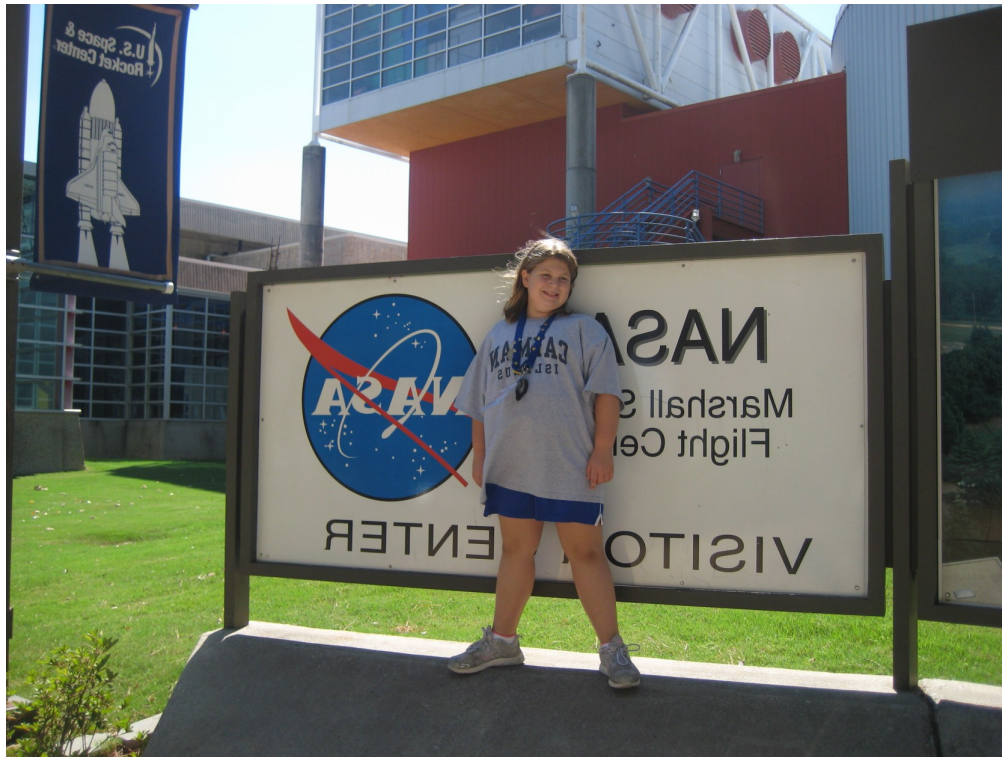
Undergraduate Biochemistry Major

The Catholic University of America

Points of Discussion

- My story
- The significance of supportive professors
- Classroom and testing accommodations
- Lab accommodations
- The importance of summer research

Losing my vision but not my mind



Images from attending Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama (2008).

From Hating Chemistry to Living for Chemistry

What changed my opinion?



The Impact of Professors

- Be available
- Be open-minded
- Be communicative
- Be supportive

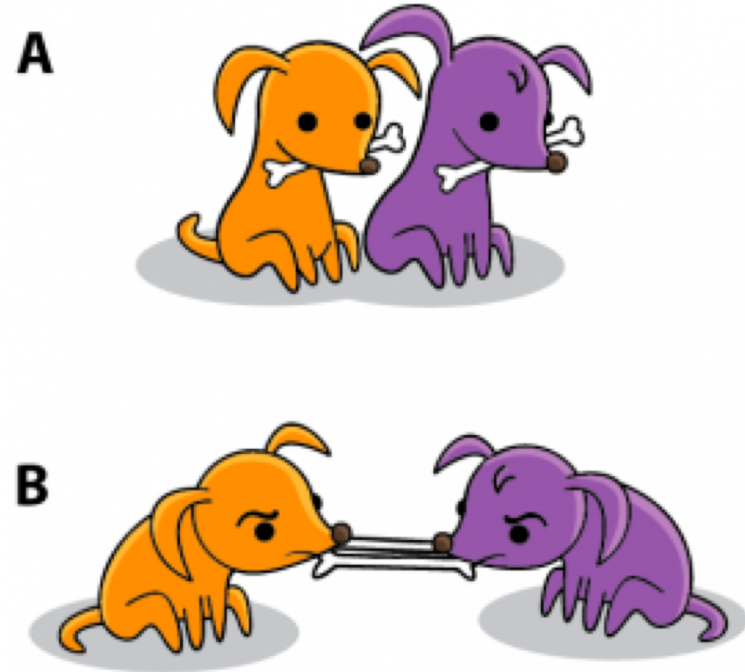


Image: <https://manoa.hawaii.edu/exploringourfluidearth/chemical/chemistry-and-seawater/covalent-bonding>

Classroom Accommodations

- Low vision technology
- Descriptions of material displayed during class
- Bridging gaps by building models
- Tactile Graphics

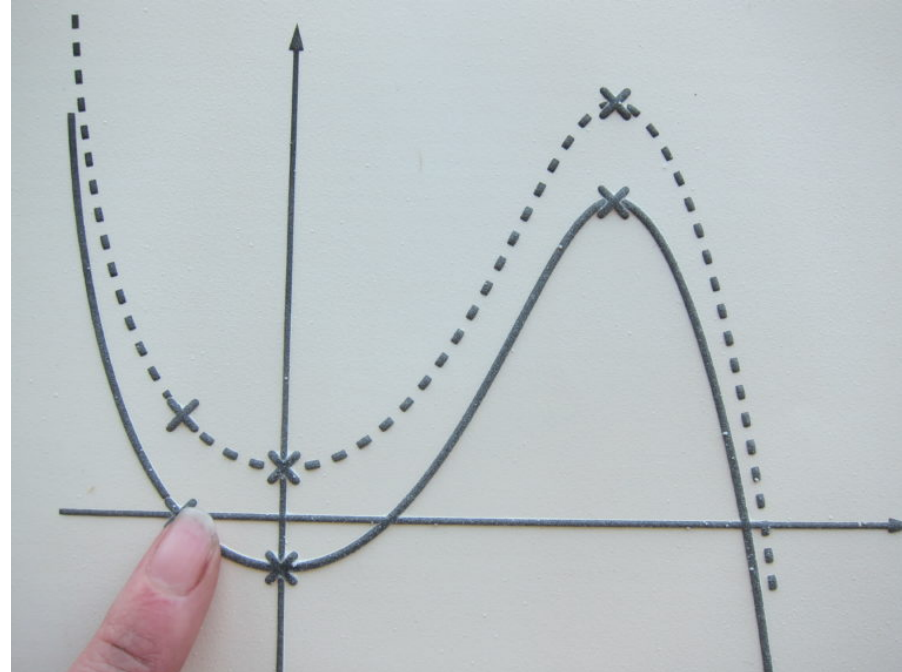
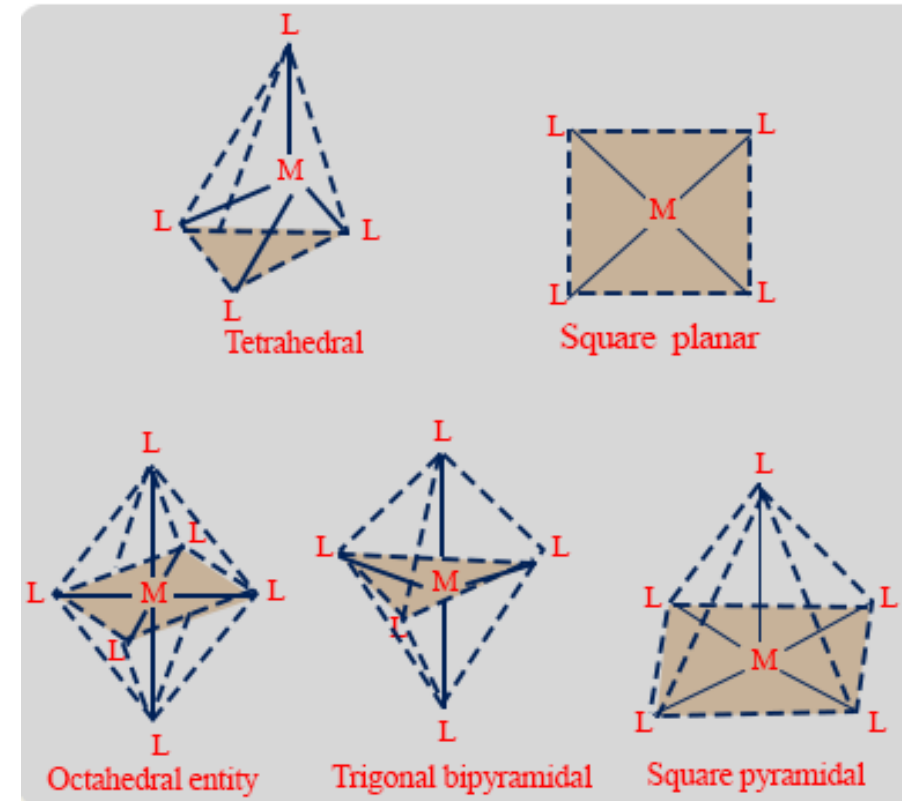


Image:
<http://cecitech.com/en/?product=visiobook-hd-the-foldable-portable-desktop-magnifier>



Aira & eSight Glasses

Aira Horizon Glasses



<https://aira.io/aira-for-higher-education>

eSight



<https://www.esighteyewear.com>

The Best “Lab” Accommodation



Enhancing the Lab Experience for Blind and Low Vision Students

- Having a lab assistant
- The role of the lab assistant
- Tactically marking glassware
- Talking Lab Quest



<http://independencescience.com/product/talking-labquest-2/>

Summer Research Opportunities for Students with Disabilities

National Science Foundation's Research Experience for Undergraduates specifically for students with disabilities:

1. Science and Engineering Leadership Initiative REU at the University of Delaware - <https://sites.udel.edu/seli-ud/>
2. Science and Mathematics REU at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf, Rochester Institute of Technology - <https://people.rit.edu/bcjntm/REU.html>



American Association for the Advancement of Science's Entry Point!

Places students with disabilities in a variety of internship programs - <https://www.aaas.org/programs/entry-point>

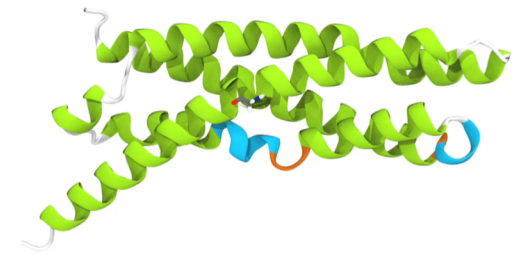


Benefits of Participating in a REU & My Summer Experience at University of Delaware

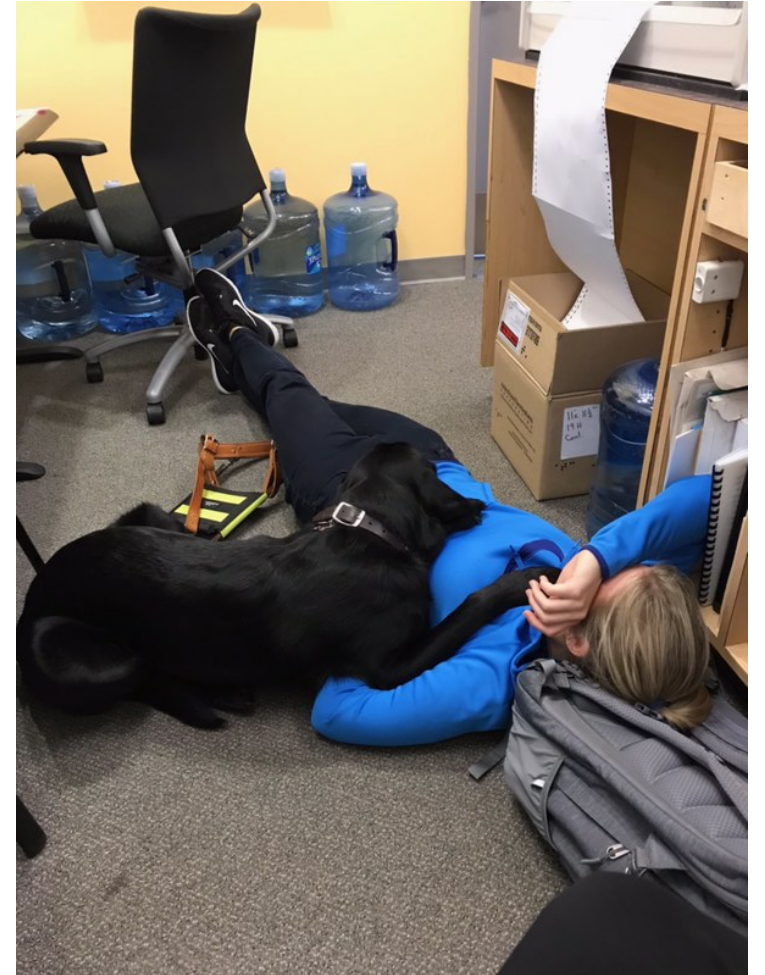


Computational Chemistry Research
Research involving Constant pH Molecular
Dynamics simulations to analyze the effects of
altering pH on protein structure

- Teaches students how to advocate for themselves in graduate school and the work place
- Exposes students to areas of chemistry that are not hindered by disability
- Integrates students into the graduate student community



Concluding Remarks & Thank You!



Ask us anything!