



2017 Department of Biology Awards

THOMAS L. BAHLER SCHOLARSHIP

Gunnar Wolfe, Biology & Chemistry

Gunnar Wolfe first enrolled at Utah State University in the fall of 2013. He originally was declared as a chemistry major but would later decide a dual major in both chemistry and biology was the best fit for him. Having the long-term goal of entering medical school, academics became important to him and his hard work in the classroom would award him with a 3.9 accumulative GPA. Using his success in the classroom to aid others Gunnar began to help students in their academic pursuits. He fulfilled many teaching roles within the College of Science, which included; volunteer UTF for The Principles of Genetics (BIOL 3060), volunteer tutor for the chemistry department, UTF for Advanced Human Physiology and a general chemistry lab instructor (CHEM 1225). He also became president of the USU Chemistry and Biochemistry Club to teach those within the Logan community basic chemical phenomena. Gunnar's hard work in the classroom has been recognized by the College of Science as he has been given numerous awards.

In the summer of 2015 Gunnar joined Dr. Sun's research group, which works on mimicking plants' photosystem II water splitting ability. Working with graduate student Meili Sheng, Gunnar, seeks to develop a price-efficient catalyst that can split water and form hydrogen gas. Hydrogen gas is the ideal green energy fuel because when combusted its sole product is water, thus aiding in the global warming epidemic. Gunnar is a coauthor on "Microwave Synthesis of Ultrathin Nickel Hydroxide Nanosheets with Iron Incorporation for Electrocatalytic Water Oxidation", published by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

Gunnar's long-term goal is to enroll into a medical school where he will further his education. In preparing for the competitive enrollment process of medical school he has become nationally certified in phlebotomy and has spent numerous hours volunteering with hospice, where he visits terminally ill patients and spends quality time with them. Gunnar has also secured a summer mentoring position for the summer of 2017 at the University-California Irvine's (UCI) premedical program. Here he will spend three weeks teaching high school students about the medical field and what it means to be a premedical student.