

“Green fluorescent monkeys, pharmaceutical-producing bacteria, resurrected mammoths, and cloned sheep not only give credibility to Dr. Bob Goldberg’s statement that “We live in an age of DNA in which everything becomes possible,” they also could be mascots for what I anticipate will be my life-long pursuit in molecular biology research, which was spurred by Dr. Goldberg.

My freshman year I walked into Dr. Goldberg’s class and was immediately excited by the test tubes on each desk; I knew this was not going to be a typical class. I loved the interactivity of the in-class experiments and Socratic style discussion sections. Even though I was intimidated at first by speaking into a microphone, by the end of the class I had the confidence to explain the process of Gene Therapy to the entire class for the Oral Exam. Eager to learn more, I jumped on the opportunity to participate in his Gene Discovery Lab Class in Spring 2009 and two years later, in Spring 2011, to be a discussion and lab mentor for the next group of students.

In his lab, I became hooked on the pursuit of discovering something new, which led me to pursue more molecular biology research opportunities. While teaching the lab, I learned how to troubleshoot experiments, critically interpret data, and help other understand the fundamentals of laboratory research. These experiences will be invaluable for the rest of my life as I hope to become a research professor.

Furthermore, as a teaching fellow, I discovered a passion for teaching. The highlight of each week was helping a group of students go from bewilderment to excitement about scientific experiments that have inspired me to pursue a career in Molecular Biology. Not only was teaching rewarding, but also the skills Dr. Goldberg equipped me are invaluable. I learned how to communicate effectively, excite others about topics outside their normal field of interest, and how to think critically about material. These tools will no doubt help me throughout my life, but they have also allowed me to be a better student. “

-Eden Maloney
Teaching Fellow & Peer
Research Mentor 2011, 2012