

Lauralee Hurst
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EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin August 2024 - present
Ph.D. Student, Physical Chemistry
Advisor: Delia Milliron

Belmont University August 2020 - May 2024
Bachelor of Science | Summa Cum Laude
Majors: Chemistry, Physics; Honors Program; Minor: Mathematics

FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, September 2024-present
Awarded April 2024

Provost Graduate Excellence Fellow at UT Austin, September 2024-present
Awarded April 2024

HONORS AND AWARDS

College of Sciences & Mathematics Dean's Research Award, Belmont University (May 2024)

David Driskill Physical Science Award, Belmont University, Department of Chemistry and Physics (May 2024)

Fourth Year Hale Leadership Award, Belmont University (April 2024)

“Outstanding Presentation in Materials” award, Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium (October 2023)

2nd Place UT Austin MRSEC REU Poster Presentation (July 2022)

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society (November 2021 – May 2024)

Belmont University Honors Program (August 2020 – May 2024)

Belmont University Dean’s List (Fall 2020 – May 2024)

Belmont University Faculty Scholars Scholarship (August 2020 – May 2024)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Austin, Department of Chemistry

Graduate student researcher, October 2024 – present

Research advisor: Delia Milliron

Belmont University, Department of Chemistry and Physics

Undergraduate researcher, August 2022 – May 2024

Research co-advisors: Prof. Davon Ferrara and Prof. Justin Stace

Cornell University, Smith School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering

CCMR NSF REU, June – August 2023

Research advisor: Prof. Tobias Hanrath

University of Texas at Austin, McKetta Department of Chemical Engineering

CDCM MRSEC NSF REU, June – July 2022

Research advisor: Prof. Delia Milliron

PRESENTATIONS

American Physical Society Spring 2024, Minneapolis, MN, March 2024. Hurst, L.; Stace, J.; Ferrara, D. “Energy transfer interactions between a terbium(III) complex and plasmonic metal nanoparticles,” (poster).

Science University Research Symposium at Belmont University, Nashville, TN, November 2023. Hurst, L.; Ferrara, D.; Stace, J. “Synthesis of a Novel Terbium(III) Complex for Application in Metal Nanoparticle Surface Modification” (poster).

Gulf Coast Undergraduate Research Symposium at Rice University, Houston, TX, October 2023. Hurst, L.; Gonzalez, A; Hanrath, T. “Copper Nanowire Synthesis and Assembly for Improved Electrochemical CO₂ Reduction” (12 min oral presentation).

With award “Outstanding Presentation in Materials.”

College of Sciences and Mathematics Summer Research Symposium, Nashville, TN, September 2023. Hurst, L.; Gonzalez, A; Hanrath, T. “Synthesis and Self-Assembly of Copper Nanowires for Electrochemical CO₂ Reduction” (poster).

REU Final Presentations, Ithaca, NY, August 2023. Hurst, L.; Gonzalez, A; Hanrath, T. “Synthesis and Self-Assembly of Copper Nanowires for Electrochemical CO₂ Reduction” (8 min lecture).

American Chemical Society Spring 2023, Indianapolis, IN, March 2023. Hurst, L.; Ferrara, D. “Impact of Glassware Contamination in Gold and Silver Nanoparticle Synthesis” (poster).

College of Sciences and Mathematics Summer Research Symposium, Nashville, TN, September 2022. Hurst, L.; Segui-Barragan, V; Gan, X.Y.; Milliron, D. “Exchange Dynamics of Surface Ligands on Tin-Doped Indium Oxide Nanocrystals” (poster).

REU Poster Session and Final Presentations, Austin, TX, July 2022. Hurst, L; Segui-Barragan, V; Gan, X.Y.; Milliron, D. “Exchange Dynamics of Surface Ligands on Tin-Doped Indium Oxide Nanocrystals” (poster and 10 min oral presentation).

With award 2nd place in poster competition.

LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE

Alpha Chi National College Honor Society, Belmont University

President (May 2023 – May 2024)

Secretary (May 2022 – May 2023)

Academic Tutor

August 2018 – December 2023

Honors Program Peer Mentor, Belmont University

August 2021 – May 2024

The Branch of Nashville, Food Bank

Volunteer (August 2022 – May 2023)

Department of Chemistry and Physics Laboratory Work Assistant, Belmont University

(January 2022 – May 2022)

NASA L’SPACE Mission Concept Academy

Deputy Project Manager and Lead Scientist (January 2022 – May 2022)