



# UWSP Students Thank You for the Wisconsin Younger Chemists Committee Conference in Madison, Wisconsin, Oct. 23, 2010



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Ryan Hopfensperger

*Zeb Bandow*  
Zeb Bandow

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Prof. Mike Zach

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*Megan Madenwald*  
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Myo Oo

*Qianwei Ren*  
Qianwei Ren

*Dr. Lori Lepak*  
Dr. Lori Lepak

*Ashley Schroeder*  
Ashley Schroeder



*Dr. Lori Lepak*

*Ashley Schroeder*

"Attending the Career Symposium was a great opportunity to meet with talented individuals and listen to their presentations on interesting career opportunities. Before the symposium, I was not aware of the opportunities available to undergraduate chemists. Listening to the presenters was a valuable experience. Thank you!" - Ashley Ostrowski.

"The number (and quality) of the speakers who came to the symposium was incredible. It was so helpful to hear from a wide range of professionals, because some jobs sounded a lot like something I could see myself doing, and some did not; it is important to be exposed to a lot of options, so we young students can find the right fit, and can focus on a real goal. Whether the job was something we were interested in one day pursuing, or not, I know that every young chemist at the symposium was surprised how willing the speakers were to share. It meant so much that such successful and busy men and women took the time to prepare a presentation, travel to the school to show the presentation, then stay for lunch and/or dinner to speak with students!" - Kendra Ness

"I had never realized there are such a variety of job opportunities for chemistry students. Before the symposium, the only jobs I knew in the field of chemistry were chemistry teachers, professors and researchers, but it is definitely not true. This symposium made me know more about chemistry and also made me love chemistry more!!" - Qianwei Ren

"Going to the YCC Career Symposium was one of the greatest decisions I've made regarding my chemistry career. I have always been indifferent about the future, but now I feel much more confident and have a better idea of what I want to do." - Megan Madenwald

The Madison YCC Symposium was an important experience for me as an undergraduate. Going into the Clinical Laboratory Science field, I set my sights on working in a hospital laboratory without really considering the other options out there. Now I have a broader view of possibilities after graduation. I would encourage other undergraduates to attend, whether you feel certain about your future goals or not, it is a worthwhile experience." - Erin Boody

"The symposium was very illuminating to the prospect of having a career as a chemist. I thought it exposed me to hear from a good variety of speakers, drawn from different fields of the study. This will allow me to keep a keen eye out on the very many possibilities of graduating with a chemistry major. I certainly hope there will be more symposiums such as this held in the future to help guide the budding careers of future students. Thank you." - Myo Oo

The career symposium was very helpful in narrowing down options for the future. I never knew so many diverse options were available for chemistry majors besides the stereotypical lab bench worker. The insight from other chemists helps me prepare for my resume and reminded me that grades aren't determining factors for a job and that creativity, ambition to learn and communication are key skills to have." - Nicki Orlando

"I didn't realize all the opportunities available for people with a chemistry degree without having travel out of state." - Ryan Hopfensperger

I am in the process of deciding the science related career I will pursue. I was very excited to hear about the YCC Career Symposium where I could learn about a variety of jobs in the field of Chemistry. And the speakers truly were varied, ranging from the Laboratory Director of the Department of Agriculture to the Chief Scientist for a product development firm. After today, I know of many different jobs in Chemistry and some important things employers are looking for in job candidates. Thank you for arranging for these professionals to come speak with us." - Ruth Gervais

"I learned a lot about what can be done with the degrees that my fellow students and I are currently working towards. The speakers had a lot of good information about what kind of jobs we can get into, and what employers are really looking for when they go to hire someone." - Zeb Bandow

I was initially interested in going to the career symposium because I had never seriously considered a career in Chemistry. I could not be more happy that I went! I learned a lot and was really inspired by the speakers. It never occurred to me the variety of jobs available in the Chemistry field! I took a lot away from the trip, but most of all I realized with enough effort I could pursue any career I choose and I am really excited to continue my education in science. - Ashley Schroeder

"I couldn't believe that this was the first ever ACS Wisconsin Local Section YCC Career Symposium. The symposium was so organized and well executed. This symposium was jam-packed with quality education for success in graduate school, future careers, and even life decisions." - Hlee Lor

"This symposium was an outstanding opportunity for our undergraduates to explore the enormous diversity of careers open to people with chemistry degrees. They are particularly fortunate to have had this experience at such an early stage in their professional development - an opportunity I never had, and in retrospect, believe I would have benefitted greatly from. Even though I am a few years farther along in my career path, I learned quite a bit myself about what options may lie ahead. Thank you so much!" - Dr. Lori Lepak

On October 23, 2010, twelve students, a post doctoral fellow and a professor from UWSP attended the first ever Career Symposium held by the UW-Madison Chapter of the American Chemical Society's Younger Chemists Committee.

The program included tips from successful leaders in a diversity of companies, governmental and academic organizations. For many students, this provided a new realization that their degree in chemistry can become what ever they want to make it.

**Thank you for sharing your expertise and  
sponsorship of this conference!**

**Your insights and sharing of experience are helping to  
inspire a new generation of scientists!**

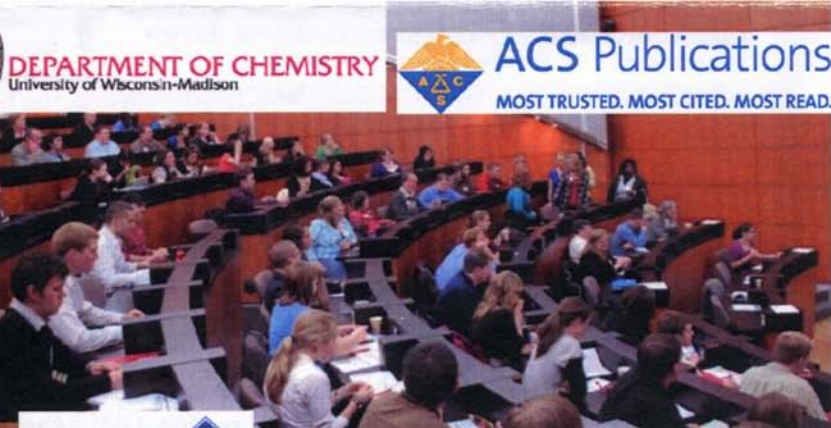


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- Do your homework
- Anticipate questions
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