



The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Chemistry
 College of Natural Sciences

About ▾ People ▾ Academics ▾ Research ▾ Resources ▾

UNDERGRADUATE

Student Services Office

Testing Services

Advising Center

Course Syllabi

Fisher Storeroom

Res TXShop

Sch Procurement Requisition Form

Stu Classroom Demos

FA Safety Information

Mallet Chemistry Library

Awards Calendar

Room Reservations

Career Services

Department Facilities

NEWS AND

From the Chemistry Department

Font size: **+** **-** | Print

Stellar Student Spotlight: Amanda Oakley

Monday, 02 May 2016 [Student News, News](#) 838 Hits

Amanda Oakley is a sophomore in the Department of Chemistry and a member of the Peer Learning Assistant program.



I fell in love with chemistry in seventh grade when my science teacher lit metal salts on fire to show us the different colors. From there my interest grew in high school, especially after I finished AP chemistry and I realized how many different areas there are in chemistry and I wanted to learn more. I decided to become a chemistry major so I could immerse myself in chemistry. I have a gift for learning chemistry; it simply makes sense to me. I chose to attend UT to study chemistry because UT offers a variety of opportunities for its students; from opportunities to participate in research my freshman year to challenging courses to amazing and supportive professors. I knew UT would be the best place to begin my journey of exploring chemistry.

The peer learning assistant program has been an enriching part of my experience here at UT. Not only is it great to give back and help other students learn to love chemistry as I do, it has helped me be a better chemist as well. I haven't had the "normal" experience as a peer learning assistant. For my first semester, instead of being a part of the first semester of general chemistry for science majors, I was an assistant for Dr. Kate Biberdorf's general chemistry for nonscience majors course. It was a challenging and yet fun experience to assist students who hated chemistry engage with the topic. It was difficult to make real world connections that the students would understand in order to make the information they were

learning relevant. I am now a better chemist because I had to look and think of problems in a different way than I was used to thinking in my own classes.

Right now I am not ready to commit to one area of chemistry. I am open to the idea of continuing my education and going to graduate school or maybe pharmacy school. I am leaving my options open as I continue to enjoy my experience at UT.

[Two Chemistry Students Awarded National Science Foundation Grants](#)

[News from the Mallet Library](#)



[Chemist Searches for Less Toxic Compound to Preserve Organs](#)



[Chemistry Faculty Member Selected for Texas 10 Recognition](#)



[UT Austin Mourns the Death of Former Provost Gerhard Fonken](#)



[New Material Could Save Time and Money in Medical Imaging and Environmental Remediation](#)

[More CNS News »](#)



The University of Texas at Austin
Department of Chemistry
 College of Natural Sciences



105 E. 24th St., A5300
Austin, TX 78712-1224

© Department of Chemistry, College of Natural Sciences,
The University of Texas at Austin

Undergraduate Office: 512-471-1567
Chair's Office: 512-471-3949

[Login](#) | [IT Help Request](#) | [Webmail](#) | [Sitemap](#)

[Web Privacy Policy](#)

[Web Accessibility Policy](#)