



For Immediate Release

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October 21, 2008

Ethridge Receives \$500 Undergraduate Research Grant

Chris Ethridge was recently awarded a \$500 grant from the Office of Undergraduate Research and Scholarly Activity (URSA) for his proposal entitled "Synthesis of Pyrrole Templates for the Preparation of Small Libraries of Compounds for Biological Evaluation."

Ethridge, a junior chemistry major from Murray, Ky., is researching "efficient and cost effective strategies for the synthesis of small libraries of compounds for utilization in Structure-Activity Relationship (SAR) studies of bacterial resistance enzymes and sodium channels," according to his proposal. Then, Ethridge will collaborate with Dr. Ricky Cox, Professor of Chemistry, and Dr. Sterling Wright, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, to examine the compounds using two different biological systems, combating bacterial resistance and exploring sodium channels.

Dr. Edie Banner, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, will serve as Ethridge's faculty mentor on the project. "Chris worked with me this past summer on the development of precursors for two projects. During this time he has clearly demonstrated his ability to apply laboratory skills learned in the classroom as well as learn new laboratory techniques quickly," Banner said of Ethridge's abilities.

Ethridge plans to present his findings at MSU's *Scholars Week*, which will take place April 20-24, 2009, and at the 2009 national meeting of the American Chemical Society held in Utah. He plans to submit his findings for publication in *Chrysalis: The Murray State University Journal of Undergraduate Research*.

More information about the URSA program can be found online at <http://campus.murraystate.edu/services/ursa/> or by calling (270) 809-3192.