

Student's Research Adventure - 2007

Tara Archuleta in Nashville



My summer adventures in Nashville, Tennessee: Upon arriving in Nashville I was a bit nervous about what to expect. I have never been to this side of the country, much less the south. I also did not know what I was going to think of Vanderbilt because I love the University of Arizona and the faculty so much. However, I quickly found many people (who are now some of the best people I have ever spent time with) to spend my time with, and to explore Nashville with.



I am attending the Vanderbilt Summer Science Academy (Molecular and Cellular Biology division) where I work in a molecular physiology and biophysics lab, Kenworthy Lab, and attend various scientific seminars. In Dr. Anne Kenworthy's lab I study the interaction of cholera toxin with membrane microdomains by fluorescence recovery after photobleaching (FRAP). I love my project, even though it is quite different than the projects I have worked with at the U of A... who knew I would like physics so much.



On my off time, which is few and far between, my new friends and I try to go out and explore Nashville. The first few weeks we went downtown and went to the CMA Fanfare Concerts (Country Music Awards) and a few other events they held downtown at the riverfront. I also try and explore the school and the area around Vanderbilt; the buildings at the school are amazing, great architecture. My favorite building at Vanderbilt is the NMR facility, well what use to be the NMR building, it is a circular building that has thick glass surrounding it so you can see right into it. Now, the NMR facility is located underground, about where I am standing while taking the picture. Across the street from Vanderbilt is Centennial Park where recreation of the The Parthenon stands. The Parthenon was built here in Nashville for Tennessee's 1897 Centennial Exposition.



For the 4th of July we watched the fireworks display at the stadium where they actually set them off. They were amazing, they are ranked the 3rd best fireworks display in the US, and we were so close that the debris from the fireworks rained down on us.



My most recent adventure took place in Kentucky; we drove about an hour and forty-five minutes north to Mammoth Cave National Park, the largest underground cave system in the world. The cave tour we went on was breath-taking...I have never seen anything like it.

Well, that's it for now. I have a few weeks left here in Nashville and much more work to get done and a few more places to see before I leave.

[Undergraduate](#)^[1]

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