

Sarah Kessans

812-923-0048

skessans@gmail.com

- Research Experience**
- Fall 2004-Spring 2005 Purdue University West Lafayette, IN
Undergraduate Research Assistant
- Undergraduate honors thesis project under Dr. Nick Carpita and Dr. Mick Held.
 - Project title: Towards the Identification of Genes Encoding the β -Glucan Synthase Using Viral Induced Gene Silencing.
 - Thesis and seminar completed for an Honors Degree in Plant Biology.
- Fall 2003-Spring 2004 Purdue University West Lafayette, IN
Research Assistant
- Research in cell wall biosynthesis with Dr. Nick Carpita.
 - Project focus: Characterization of *mur5* and *mur6* mutants of *Arabidopsis*.
- Summer 2003 University College Dublin Dublin, Ireland
Research Intern
- Eight-week research internship under Dr. Fiona Doohan, Plant Pathology (division of the ERM department).
 - Project focus: Retrotransposon and gene activation in wheat in response to mycotoxigenic and non-mycotoxigenic-associated Fusarium stress.
 - Paper under same title accepted for publication in Theoretical and Applied Genetics
- Fall 2001-Spring 2003 Purdue University West Lafayette, IN
Research and Lab Assistant
- Research in plant molecular biology under Dr. Ron Coolbaugh, Botany and Plant Pathology Department.
 - Project focus: gibberellin synthesis and P450s
 - General upkeep of the lab including: ordering supplies, washing dishes, preparing media, and maintaining growth chambers.
- Summer 2001 Weizmann Institute of Science Rehovot, Israel
Research Intern
- Four-week internship under Dr. Sarit Weissman.
 - Project focus: Use of fluorescent AFLP for evolutionary analysis of modern hexaploid wheat
- Education**
- 2001-2005 **Purdue University** West Lafayette, IN
- Major: Plant Biology
 - Cumulative GPA: 3.47

- Honors Research Degree

1997-2001 **Eastern High School** Pekin, IN

- High School diploma
- Graduated *magna cum laude*, 3rd in class.

**Leadership and
Organizational
Experience**

Spring 2003 – Spring 2005 **Purdue IAESTE**

- International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience, internship program for science and engineering students
- Elected President of Purdue Chapter, 2004-2005
- Responsible for overseeing incoming and outgoing interns
- Acted as a liaison between the Local Committee and the National Office

Fall 2001-Spring 2005 **Purdue Crew Team**

- Varsity Member, 3 years
- Rowed in top boat for six seasons, including 2 Dad Vail Regatta Golds
- Kenneth Butler Award for Most Valuable Oarswoman, 2004

Professional Memberships

- Golden Key Honor Society
- National Dean's List
- Gamma Sigma Delta (Nat'l Agriculture Honors Society)

**Scholarships and
Awards**

Purdue University

- Mauri Williamson Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship
- College of Agriculture Study Abroad Scholarship
- Undergraduate Research Scholarship
- Outstanding Senior in Agriculture, runner-up
- Botany Department Outstanding Student Award (Fr, So, Jr, and Sr yrs)

Other

- Biodesign Institute Fellowship
- Intel Science Talent Search Scholarship
- Indiana Academy of Science Scholarship
- Science Education Foundation of Indiana Scholarship