

**Name:** Wellesley Dittmar

**Major:** Biological Engineering

**Meeting:** Equine Science Symposium (ESS), Minneapolis, MN

**Conference Date:** May 30-June 2, 2017

Over the summer I was given the chance to attend the Equine Science Symposium in Minneapolis due to the travel award I received from the Shackouls Honors College. Along with numerous other members of Dr. Cyprianna Swiderski's Translational Respiratory Research Laboratory and Dr. Swiderski herself, I traveled to Minnesota to present my research project as an oral presentation in the undergraduate student competition. The research that I performed focused on the ability of an *ex-vivo* tissue bath to measure contractile force generated by rings of equine airway tissue gathered from horses affected with equine asthma and control horses.

Attending the conference allowed me to not only network with people who share my interest in equine medicine, but also gave me the opportunity to present my findings in a professional setting. The feedback I received upon my presentation will shape the future direction of my studies and improve the way I present to a public audience. This conference was one of the most exciting things I have ever had the chance to do and it would not have been possible without the support of the travel award from the Shackouls Honors College.