My trip to San Diego was the first time that I had ever been invited to present a poster at a professional conference. My research endeavors began one year prior to my presentation. I took a research elective with Dr. Herndon in the Infectious Disease laboratory. I mentioned to her that I was interested in cardiology as a potential career. She informed me that she had done previous work with endocarditis and recommended that I pick up the trail and add a twist to that previous work. We designed the study, gathered the subjects, and tested the data. An abstract was subsequently written and submitted to Experimental Biology; an extensive society journal published once a year highlighting the scientific pursuits of numerous basic science organizations and their thousands of constituents. My abstract was accepted into the journal and I, along with Dr. Herndon, were invited to present our research in San Diego.

Between the ages of 6 and 8 years, I have been to San Diego numerous times when I lived in Irvine, California. I remembered it as very sunny, warm, and big. All of those characteristics continue to aptly apply to what I flew into on Sunday, April 6th. I stayed at the Westgate Hotel; about 8 blocks north from the convention center. It was a fabulously decorated hotel with wonderful rooms and great views of the city. The staff was very nice and gave me several recommendations on food, entertainment, and public transport. I walked most of the time. I enjoyed getting to know the city on foot.
The convention center is amazing to behold. It spans close to a mile along the San Diego shore line and pier. It is build primarily out of glass, which gives it a dramatic post modern appeal that matches most of the city’s sky line. The interior held every scientific society’s poster section (each containing 400 individual spaces) along with hundreds of research firms and businesses that peddled their wares to the convention attendees.

The entire experience exposed me to a wide array of concepts. During my poster session, I had many attendees inquire about my research, methods, and conclusions. I had the opportunity to engage people in scientific conversations and to field questions regarding my work. All of this experience will suit me well when Student Research Day roles around. I also had the opportunity to review hundreds of other posters from all over the world. I noted all the interesting reach in wide fields of study, but I also made note of how this work is presented and what I can expect to do in the future.
Conference: Experimental Biology 2008  
Location: San Diego, CA  
Dates: Sunday 4/6/08-Friday 4/8/08

Transportation:  
Round Trip Airfare…………….251.00  
Airport Economy Parking……...16.50  
Public Transit………………….2.50

Subtotal: 270.00

Lodging:  
4/6/07-4/7/08…………………...318.54  
4/7/08-4/8/08…………………...319.38

Subtotal: 637.92

Food:  
4/6/08…………………………. 29.89  
4/7/08…………………………..28.67  
4/8/08…………………………..18.64

Subtotal: 77.20

Registration:  
4/6/08-4/8/08…………………...95.00

TOTAL: $1080.12