



Cellular Communication

In far off Ghana, he is working beside doctors and nurses in a medical facility. This senior and health sciences and biology double major immerses himself in all aspects of the experience. Andrew Steinfeldt wants to be a doctor and with the medical college admission test behind him, medical school is exactly where he is headed.

Initially not interested in attending college, Steinfeldt came to the University of Minnesota Crookston to play football and finished his final season with the Golden Eagles last fall. What he discovered in the classroom was an interest in biology

and along with it an affinity for scientific research.

“I was fascinated by the smallest interactions that must occur for humans to function from day to day,” Steinfeldt explains. That interest probably explains the reason organic chemistry has been his favorite class. “I found going down to the mechanistic level made much of what I learned in biology make sense.”

He was involved with Venu Mukku and Brian Dingmann, who both teach in the Math, Science, and Technology Department, in the study of secondary bioactive metabolites, organic compounds not involved directly

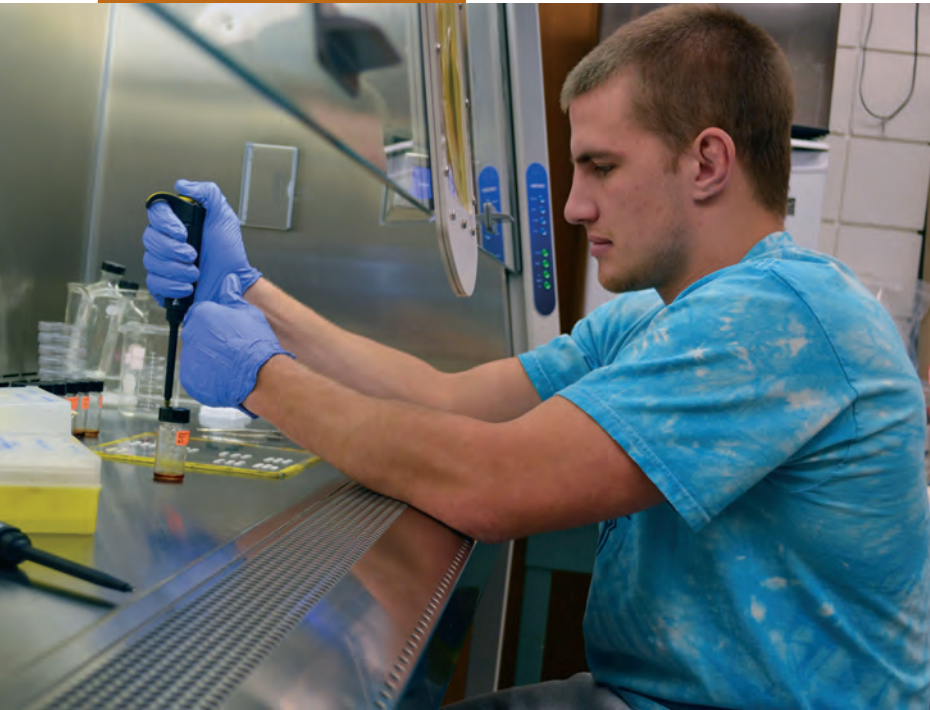
in an organism’s normal growth, development, or reproduction.

He distills much of his collegiate career to a triad of choices. “There are three things that are important to me as a college student,” he smiles. “I cannot have all three so I picked “having a life” and studying as my two priorities, which means, I have at times had to forego sleep.”

Steinfeldt’s favorite haunts on campus for studying are the Library and the Academic Assistance Center. He also tutors students in anatomy and physiology as well as organic chemistry. He has been involved in

Continued on page 20...

Cellular Communication cont...



the revival of Students for the Education of Environmental and Life Sciences (SEELS) on campus and a member of Alpha Lambda Delta, the student honor society.

Amidst all the activity, Steinfeldt played football and appreciates the lessons football has taught him. “What you learn on the field, you apply off the field,” he concludes. “And, I have learned a lot on the field.”

He also helped coach football and led his Youth NFL flag football team to victory last fall. His team, the Packers, beat the opposition to take the title in the league sponsored by the Golden Eagles and the Crookston Park & Recreation designed for third and fourth graders. For this native from Green Bay, Wis., winning the Super Bowl was special for his team and for him along with fellow coach, Tyler Hansen, a junior from Morris, Minn., majoring in natural resources.

A summer ago, Steinfeldt was selected for a research internship in Milwaukee, Wis., at the Medical College, gaining valuable experience focusing on mitochondrial research related to heart attacks. He has applied to a number of medical schools and is interested in being a doctor in a rural setting or perhaps a career in medical research.

It looks like he will have a life in the sciences and it won't matter which avenue he takes, Steinfeldt will prioritize his opportunities and stick with the ones that matter to him. It has worked for him so far, and there is no reason it won't continue to guide him in the future.