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**AMES LAB GRADUATE STUDENT TO MEET WITH NOBEL LAUREATES**  
**Iowa State Student Will Travel to Lindau, Germany for Gathering of Nobel Laureates**

AMES, IOWA - Deborah Zorn, an Iowa State University graduate student performing research at the U.S. Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory, has been selected by the DOE to attend the 54th International Convention of Nobel Laureates in Lindau, Germany, June 27-July 2.

Zorn is one of 25 top young researchers from across the United States who will receive full support from the DOE's Office of Science to attend the Lindau meeting. She was selected based on her overall merit in regard to academic performance and research contributions. While at the convention, she will have the unique opportunity to participate in discussions with Nobel Laureates and network with student participants from around the world, including others from the United States who will be supported by the National Science Foundation and Oak Ridge Associated Universities.



Since 1951, Nobel Laureates in chemistry, physics and physiology/medicine have convened annually in Lindau to have open and informal meetings with students and young researchers from all over the world. The Lindau meetings rotate by discipline each year. The meeting this summer will focus on physics.

"I'm not as familiar with physics as I am with chemistry," said Zorn, "but I'm always excited about opportunities to learn new things and expand my horizons. The Lindau meeting of Nobel Laureates is the perfect place to do that."

Zorn is the daughter of Tom and Jo Ann Zorn of Lincoln, Neb. She is in her second year of graduate work at Iowa State, studying theoretical and computational chemistry. In one of her current DOE research projects, Zorn is creating and implementing theoretical and computational models that will ease the process of identifying the properties of new materials being developed for catalytic systems.

Another of Zorn's DOE projects involves using quantum mechanics and molecular mechanics methods to study the behavior of certain metals on a silicon surface. The work may lead to the development of atomic wires one atom in width for nanotechnology applications.

"Debbie is an outstanding young student. She is interested in all aspects of science, and is fearless and successful in attacking problems," said Mark Gordon, Zorn's major professor. Gordon is the director of

Ames Laboratory's Applied Mathematics and Computational Sciences Program and a distinguished professor of chemistry in ISU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Zorn's selection represents the third year in a row that a student from Gordon's research group has been chosen by the DOE to attend the meeting of Nobel Laureates.

Zorn said science has fascinated her since she was a child. "I remember watching 'Newton's Apple' a lot, and I also took several summer science classes in Lincoln's Bright Lights program," she said. Zorn credits her father with encouraging her interest in science. "My father is an economist by profession, but a scientist and philosopher by heart," she said. "He instilled an interest in science and an appreciation for math in me for which I will always be grateful."

Although science is her passion, Zorn has studied art and enjoys visiting art galleries. She is also an accomplished golfer and was an NCAA division III All-American and Academic All-American Athlete.

"I like to think of myself as a creative person," said Zorn. "Whether it's science, art or sports, it's all about problem solving. I enjoy taking bigger problems and breaking them down until they are similar to something I've seen before and that I can solve."

It's likely that the opportunity to meet with Nobel Laureates will help Zorn with some problem solving of a different nature. "I've read the comments from previous student participants, many of whom noted that the experience gave them a greater understanding of what they want to do with their lives and where they want to go in terms of their careers," she said. She anticipates that the Lindau trip will be of similar benefit to her. But one thing Zorn already knows for certain is that wherever the future finds her, it will definitely be at a place where she can continue doing research.

Ames Laboratory is operated for the DOE by ISU. The Lab conducts research into various areas of national concern, including energy resources, high-speed computer design, environmental cleanup and restoration, and the synthesis and study of new materials. More information about the Ames Laboratory can be found at [www.ameslab.gov](http://www.ameslab.gov).

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