



## Department of Chemistry, Geoscience & Physics Alumni Spotlight

### Sarah McGowan

*Chemistry major Sarah McGowan graduated from Edgewood College in December 2013.*

#### What I'm doing now:

I'm currently a first-year student at the University of Iowa College of Dentistry.

#### How I decided on my major:

I began at Edgewood with the intent to become a business major. However, after taking statistics and the first semester of general biology, I realized I wanted to study science. My first semester of chemistry with Dr. Goll sealed the deal and I chose that as my major.

As I explored career options for my degree, I found that dentistry combined all of my interests into the perfect job. I enjoy science of all kinds, like working with my hands, and have interest in owning a small business.

#### Edgewood experiences that have influenced my path:

Any time I spent with professors outside of the traditional classroom environment was enriching. Whether I was in a yoga class, on a committee, or hiking up a volcano with my professors, I experienced engaging people who prompted stimulating questions and ideas and who applied their knowledge to the world beyond academics. I find that on an almost daily basis I recall something a professor has said to me, because those beyond-the-classroom lessons shaped how I engage in both my educational and real-world experiences.

#### How a liberal arts education has influenced my outlook:

The interdisciplinary education that Edgewood offers has equipped me with the ability to think beyond the terms in the textbook that I'm required to memorize, to explore how a certain idea connects with what I'm learning in my other classes. This approach makes absorbing great amounts of information manageable. Interdisciplinary thinking is especially important to dentistry because I will have to apply everything I've learned with every patient I treat.

#### Making the most of your Edgewood experience:

Be engaged! Edgewood College wants to offer you a great experience, but the option to take it

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*—Sarah McGowan*

is yours. Take time to build relationships with your peers and professors. Join clubs and go to social events. Attend academic presentations. Edgewood's small size allows unhindered access to opportunities that you may not otherwise consider. Through these opportunities you will

find your sense of self that will carry you into life beyond college.

#### Planning for life beyond Edgewood:

Besides being an engaged learner and making the most of your Edgewood College education, meeting and talking to people will help you get your career started. Networking is how you find job opportunities and learn about possible directions for your career. I met many people at the community events through the College. Volunteering is another simple way of meeting people, especially if it is in line with your career. Either way, you'll be surprised by how people have taken their career paths, and you'll find some direction for your own.

