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During my graduate career, I have been fortunate to have served as both a teaching assistant and a research assistant. As a teaching assistant, I led an organic chemistry lab and, though it was my first teaching experience, I quickly realized how rewarding it is to help students succeed. Serving as a teaching assistant inspired me to learn more about teaching and motivated my participation in the UMD Diversity and Inclusion Workshop Series and the University Teaching and Learning Program. I hope to teach in the future, and I believe that the combined experience from the teaching assistantship and education programs will provide a foundation for a meaningful teaching practice.

My research assistantship concentrates on the atmospheric chemistry of isoprene, which can impact air quality and climate. This assistantship has provided ample opportunity to develop my knowledge of atmospheric chemistry and practice relevant skills such as computer programming, atmospheric modeling, and model-measurement analysis. It has also led to valuable professional experiences such as preparing proposals, presenting talks and posters, publishing articles, and participating in peer review. I particularly appreciate that this assistantship has facilitated collaboration with many different people, including scientists from NASA, NOAA, and the EPA, as well as policymakers from the Maryland Department of the Environment. I am very grateful for both of my graduate assistantships, and I believe that they have prepared me well for future endeavors in teaching and research.