When Danièle “Danie” Monahan ’12 talks about chemistry, she uses phrases like “captures my imagination” and “just beautiful.” Even a short conversation with the sophomore from Saint Paul, Minnesota, reveals that she is passionate about her chosen major. In fact, she has already conducted research in the laboratory of Professor James Cross, Jr., studying fullerene chemistry, and has plans to spend the summer at the Centre national de la recherche scientifique in Toulouse, France, where she will work on organometallic nanoparticle synthesis.

But chemistry isn’t the only reason Danie came to Yale. “I wanted to be at a place where I would meet the next Nobel Prize winners in science and the next great writers and politicians,” she said. So when Danie first stepped on campus, she promised herself that she wouldn’t just join the chemistry club.

Danie has taken classes in French literature and the European literature tradition, and now describes James Joyce’s *Ulysses* as “art of the highest order.” This summer she is traveling to France not just to expand her research experience, but to explore a country that she has always dreamed of visiting. In her free time, she serves as a moderator for a Yale student roundtable on politics and philosophy, an experience that she describes as extremely rewarding.

After graduation, Danie hopes to attend graduate school and follow a path toward a career in academic research. “After spending a summer living the life of a researcher, spending hours in a lab, I really think it is something I could do for the rest of my life.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Danièle to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.