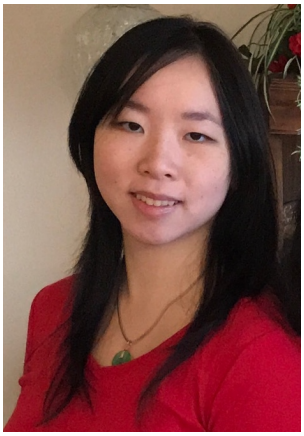

Estella was a recipient of the 2011 Dick Van Santen award with the ACS Portland Section. She earned a B.A. in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics at Willamette University the following year. While at Willamette, she worked under Drs. Andrew Duncan and Chuck Williamson on oxa-Michael cyclizations and liquid-liquid phase behaviors, respectively. She also pursued other research opportunities over the summer months, including studying insulin receptor signaling in the Parent lab at Georgia State University through the Behavioral Research Advancements in Neuroscience program and developing porous silicon chemical sensors in the Sailor lab at UC San Diego with the AMGEN program.

She subsequently moved across the country to upstate New York and received a doctoral degree at Cornell University in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology in 2018. Under the mentorship of Dr. Brian Crane, she meticulously studied electron transfer mechanisms in proteins using an array of spectroscopic and biochemical methods. She was specifically interested in the local parameters that governed efficient transfer between donor and acceptor sites, using the cytochrome c peroxidase : cytochrome c complex and light-oxygen-voltage domain proteins as model systems. Outside of lab, she assisted with organizing and planning Expanding Your Horizons, an annual conference focused on stoking the burgeoning interests of young 7^{th}–9^{th} grade girls in STEM fields. She also enjoyed hiking, swing dancing, knitting/crocheting, and sketching in her spare time. Her current aspirations include exploring new research avenues in her postdoctoral studies and continuing her work in science education.