



Travis Harris graduated from Willamette University in December, 2006, having postponed a required credit until a ninth semester, in part to allow him to run a final season of cross country. As an undergraduate, he gained valuable experience in a variety of chemical research fields: biochemistry with Todd Silverstein, synchrotron-based X-ray absorption spectroscopy with Karen McFarlane Holman, inorganic synthesis at the University of Pennsylvania (REU), and computational chemistry at Montana State University (REU).

Travis returned to Montana State University to join Robert Szilagyi's research group, where he focused on computationally investigating the structure of the iron-molybdenum cofactor of nitrogenase, which is the biological catalyst for nitrogen fixation. After earning a PhD from Montana State University in 2011, he joined Keiji Morokuma's group as a postdoctoral fellow at Kyoto University in Japan for two and a half years. It had been a dream of his to live abroad and to put his minor in Japanese from Willamette to use. In Kyoto, Travis worked on a variety of computational projects, including using a quantum-mechanical/molecular-mechanics (QM/MM) method to identify the structure of the di-iron catalytic center of the iron storage protein, ferritin. This topic actually had personal relevance, because as a cross country runner at Willamette University, his coach always had the team get their ferritin levels checked. (Insufficient iron levels lead to low oxygen uptake and slow times!)

Travis had his first teaching experience as a visiting assistant professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) at Oswego, where he taught general and inorganic chemistry. He also developed and taught a computational chemistry course for undergraduate and graduate students. In 2015, Travis moved back to the Pacific Northwest, where he is currently a visiting assistant professor at University of Puget Sound. He has recently guided thesis students on their computational studies of iron-based hydrogenation catalysts. Travis is looking forward to continuing his research and teaching in chemistry, as well as his newly developed freshman seminar course on the ethics of artificial intelligence.