

Student Award Winners

Join us in congratulating our 2023-2024 Chemistry Student Award winners. Chemistry faculty select each award recipient. It is always a difficult choice due to the strong competition. Scholarships are supported by generous donors. We also give awards for excellence in particular courses, overall academic performance, service to the community, and research.

The College of Science and Mathematics held its annual awards ceremony in April and broadcast on Facebook so that family and friends could participate.

We are grateful to the family of Dr. M. Elizabeth Derrick, Julia Wisenbaker Sumerford, Martha F. Robertson, and all of our VSU Chemistry donors for their generous financial support of our students.

Julia Wisenbaker Sumerford Scholarship **Caidyn Carr, Alexa Luna, Kaylee O'Quinn, and Jay Rogers**

Given to outstanding Chemistry students biannually.

Dr. M. Elizabeth (Betty) Derrick Award **Jacqueline Farmer and Airionna Fordham**

Provides a scholarship to an outstanding female student majoring in Chemistry.

Martha F. Robertson Scholarship in Chemistry **Ezekiel Lott, Aurielle Kittles, Katherine Hollister, Allayna Henriquez, and Cole Branyan**

Awarded to academically talented first-year students.

Winners of this year's chemistry discipline awards demonstrate excellence in specific courses. The winners are:

Polymer Chemistry in Organic Chemistry Award	Kaylee O'Quinn
Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry	Kaylee O'Quinn
Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry	Alexa Luna
Undergraduate Award in Biochemistry	Nathaniel Dionne
Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry	Jason Phillips
Organic Chemistry Excellence Award	Mason Griffin

Chemistry faculty recognize many aspects of student excellence, including research, service to the Department, and overall academic performance. Winners of this year's awards are:

American Institute of Chemists Award

Jason Phillips

Awarded to a student showing exceptional promise as a chemist.

Outstanding Chemistry Senior Award

Hope Smith

Given to a senior demonstrating overall excellent academic performance.

Outstanding Freshman Chemistry Award

Natalie Lane

Given for achievement in first-year Chemistry courses.

Southwest Georgia ACS Optima Chemical Award **Maya L. Stevens**

Recognizes outstanding service to the Chemistry Department and SMACS.

Chemistry Undergraduate Research Award

Capri Persaud and Carlton Francis

Awarded to a student showing superior skill as a chemical researcher.

We asked awardees to tell us their future plans, favorite Chemistry class, and their extracurricular activities. Here are their responses.

Caidyn Carr plans to attend pharmacy school or graduate school with a focus on cosmetic chemistry. Her favorite classes are the Chemistry Seminar classes.

Nathaniel Dionne graduated in fall 2023 and now works in Jacksonville. His favorite course at VSU was Biochemistry.

Jacqueline Farmer plans to earn a Master's degree and become a Physician's Assistant. Her favorite Chemistry class was Medicinal Chemistry.

Airionna Fordham plans to be a natural products chemist and her favorite class was Quantitative Analysis.

Carlton Francis plans to have a career in forensics and is enjoying the Forensic Chemistry course.

Mason Griffin plans to take a year off from school to gain experience before entering medical school. His favorite class was Organic Chemistry.

Natalie Lane will attend South University School of Pharmacy to earn her Doctorate in Pharmacy. Her favorite courses were General Chemistry I and II.

Alexa Luna plans to earn a PhD in chemistry. Her favorite class is Organic Chemistry.

Kaylee O'Quinn plans to go to dental school and her favorite course is Quantitative Analysis.

Capri Persaud plans to attend medical school to become a doctor. Her favorite chemistry course was Biochemistry.

Jason Phillips plans to work at Warner Robins Air Force Base in their chemical analysis lab. His favorite course was Biochemistry.

Jay Rogers plans to attend the Osteopathic Medicine (DO) Program at PCOM. His favorite course was Organic Chemistry.

Hope Smith will attend graduate school at the University of South Carolina to perform inorganic chemistry research. She will also have a trainee position at Savannah River National Lab. Her favorite course was Physical Chemistry II.

Congratulations to all of our awardees!