

The Department of

# Chemistry & Biochemistry

@ Florida State University

proudly presents the

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# 2024

## Student Awards Ceremony

May 3, 2024

3:30 p.m. in FLH 275

## UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

### General Chemistry Award

*Dylan Bernowitz   Lillian Wirstiuk   Amber Lilly   Andrew Fredericks*

*Courtney Weintraub   Hannah Schemmel   Aashutosh Pokharel*

### Katherine Blood and Harold H. Hoffman Scholarship in Chemistry

*Peyton Bunting   Cassidy King   Hannah Provost   Javion Walters*

*Ainsley Winstead*

### The Russell H. and Dorothy P. Johnsen Scholarship in Chemistry

*Jahbari Bowen   Ethan Lindsay*

### The Charles A. Brautlecht and Louise I. Brautlecht Scholarship

*Sophie Boglaev   Darius Agollari*

### The Howard W. Smoyer Endowed Scholarship Fund in Chemistry

*Samantha Bell   Camila Roman   Laura Zelter*

### The Jack Saltiel Undergraduate Research Award

*Scott Conrad*

### The Philip Schlenoff Endowment for Excellence in Undergraduate Research

*Brielle LeBrun*

### The Skipper Family Scholarship in Chemistry

*Mia Cohen   Fiona Dininger   Julia Giarelli*

*Susan Li   Isabella Minderman   Shyann Parker-Evans*

*Alexander Perez   Madison Sigler   Caitlyn Stringfellow*

### Undergraduate Senior Awards

#### Outstanding Senior Award

*Mary Katherine Gelasco*

#### Service & Citizenship Award

*Elee Siev*

#### Undergraduate Research Award

*Gia Rivers*

#### Academic Excellence in Chemistry

*Thomas Suarez*

#### Academic Excellence in Biochemistry

*Kate Lohrey*

### **Phi Beta Kappa Invitees**

*Julia Giarelli      Brielle LeBrun      Skylar Alonzo*  
*Jens Cuba      Kimberly Hoang      Tori Miller*  
*Gerald Ciani      Joshua Loewenstern      Thomas Suarez*

### **American Chemical Society Division Awards**

**Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry**      *Elizabeth Bernate*  
**Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry**      *Gia Rivers*  
**Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry**      *Thomas Suarez*  
**Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry**      *Elee Siev*

### **Graduating Summa Cum Laude**

*Skylar Alonzo      Mary Katherine Gelasco      Kate Lohrey*  
*Tori Miller      Thomas Suarez*

### **Honors in the Major Thesis**

*Darius Agollari      Victor Atanassov      Mary Katherine Gelasco*  
*Caitlin Parvizi      Gia Rivers      Thomas Suarez*

### **Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Assistant**

*Kayla Spinner      Rene Walsh*

## **GRADUATE AWARDS**

### **Department Awards**

#### **Graduate Teaching Excellence Award**

**General Chemistry**      *Bella Bertini      Erica Knorr*  
**Organic Chemistry**      *Kristen Weeks      Kevin Little*

#### **Dean's Award for Doctoral Excellence**

*Milo Adams      Doreen Addo-Yobo      Joshua Davis      Ryan Harbit*  
*Sarriah Hassoun      Yael Medley      Yusuf Muhammed      Colette Sullivan*

#### **Howard W. Smoyer Graduate Service Award**

*Catherine Fabiano      Zana Singleton*

**Russell H. Johnsen Dissertation Award**

*Jason Kuszynski*

**Johnsen Award for Excellence in Analytical Chemistry**

*Joseph Frye-Jones*

**Johnsen Award for Excellence in Biochemistry**

*Yu Harry Xue*

**Johnsen Award for Excellence in Inorganic Chemistry**

*Miguel Gakiya*

**Johnsen Award for Excellence in Materials Chemistry**

*Grace McLeod*

**Johnsen Award for Excellence in Physical Chemistry**

*Jason Kuszynski*

**Zachary Tolchin Memorial Award for Excellence in Organic Chemistry**

*Courtney Leo*

**Joseph M. Schor Fellowship in Biochemistry**

*Sonia Kiran*

**Philip Schlenoff Graduate Travel Awards**

*Vitalii Basistyi      Selin Donmez      Courtney Leo      James Kimball*

**ChemiMoles Travel Award**

*Jaehoon Jang & Amir Zarei*

**Wilder Scholarship**

*Leah Kuhn      Sonia Kiran      Erica Truong      Sandugash Yergeshbayeva*

**Crowell Tatum Dawkins Graduate Fellowship**

*Courtney Leo & Sonia Kiran*

**Rmaile and Usher Award**

*Joshua Davis*

**Cheryl and Joel Rosenfield Endowment Award**

*Milo Adams & Madeline Jeffes*

**Katherine Blood Hoffman Excellence Award**

*Kaira Mayberry & Caitlin Padgett*

**SPEAR Fellowship**

*Andrew Cantrell      Kimberley Christopher      Laura Deloso      Renee Hoffman*

**University Awards**

**Florida State University Legacy Fellowship**

*Ethan Lambert*

**Dean's Doctoral Scholar Award**

*Renee Hoffman*

*Ethan Lambert*

*Justin Phillips*

*Liam Radeke*

**COGS Travel Award**

*John Akintola*

**3-minute Thesis Competition: People's Choice Award**

*John Akintola*

**National Awards**

**2024 LANL Best Poster Award**

*Jason Kuszynski*

**Jarome & Mary Straka Scholarship for the Kosciuszko Foundation**

*Alexander Piwko*

**ACM SIGHPC Computational & Data Science Fellowship**

*Beauty Chabuka*

**Graduate Student Research & Creativity Award**

*Tunde Shonde*

**U.S Navy Funding**

*John Akintola*

**ACS General Papers Presentation Award: POLY Division**

*Courtney Leo*

**ACS Centennial Best Poster Award: PMSE Division**

*Nath-Eddy Moody*

**Eastman/ACS Analytical Summer Graduate Fellowship**

*Joshua Davis*

**Travel Grant, Florida Annual Meeting & Exposition**

*Beauty Chabuka*

**ACCESS Operation Discover Grant**

*Beauty Chabuka*

**DoD SMART Scholarship**

*Jason Kuszynski*

*Catherine Fabiano*

**2024 I-APS Best Poster Award**

*Colette Sullivan*



## **Hooding Ceremony 2024**

Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry

**John Oladimeji Akintola**, Advisor: Dr. Joseph Schlenoff  
*Dissertation: "Functional Polyelectrolyte Complexes"*

**Narjes Dridi**, Advisor: Dr. Hedi Mattoussi  
*Dissertation: "Understanding the Bio-nanointerface and Sensor Design Based on Inorganic Nanoparticle Conjugates"*

**Blaine Hunter Gordon**, Advisor: Dr. Robert Silvers  
*Dissertation: "Structural and Biophysical Characterization of La Related Protein"*

**Zillin Huang**, Advisor: Dr. Wei Yang  
*Dissertation: "Protein-Ligand Binding Molecular Dynamics Simulations and Large-Scale Lead Identification"*

**Erica S. Knorr**, Advisor: Dr. Kenneth Hanson  
*Dissertation: "Influencing Intermolecular Interactions between Metal-Oxide Bound Molecules via Post-Fabrication Atomic Layer Deposition"*

**Jason Eric Kuszynski**, Advisor: Dr. Geoffrey F. Strouse  
*Dissertation: "The Role of Semiconducting Electronic Structure on Static Transient Plasmonic Properties"*

**Marcus Dante Liebenthal**, Advisor: Dr. A. Eugene DePrince III  
*Dissertation: "Numerical Methods for Cavity Quantum-Electrodynamics and the Exploration of Hybrid Light-Matter States"*

**Tunde Blessed Shonde**, Advisor: Dr. Biwu Ma  
*Dissertation: "Molecular Sensitization Enabled Organic Metal Halide Hybrids and Complexes for Radiation Scintillation"*

**\*Zachary Tolchin**, Advisor: Dr. Joel Smith  
*Dissertation: "Azinium Dearomatization: Mechanism, Synthesis, and Isotopic Labeling"*

***Please Join us to Celebrate the Graduates!***

Please Join us for a Graduate celebration and reception in the Chemistry Sciences Laboratories Building 1005 (CSL 1005). We will have drinks and light hors d'oeuvres.