

2021 DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AWARDS ~~& BANQUET~~

Missouri S&T's Department of Chemistry

Dr. Rainer Glaser, Chair

Awarded in April 2021

2021 Outstanding Freshmen Awards

Samuel Spinuzzi

Sarah Vizner

2021 Outstanding Sophomore Awards

Josie Glenn

Brent Harfmann

Ethan Hay

Gavin Hofmeister

Justin Nulsen

Monti Silas

Megan Sly

Adam Willett

2021 Outstanding Junior Awards

Justin Goerger

Ingrid Winter

2021 Outstanding Senior Awards

Lillian Adams

Christina Arens

Carmen Byerly

Loki Cortner

Joseph Gloriod

Daniel Greenan

Zachary Foulks

Kari Knobbe

Gladwin Bryan Labrague

Isaiah Robertson

2021 Freshman *Primus inter Pares* Scholastic Achievement Award Awards --- Inaugural

Primus Inter Pares awardees receive a certificate and additional scholarship support from the Department of Chemistry in the amount of \$100.

Samuel Spinuzzi

Sarah Vizner

2021 Outstanding Undergraduate Service Assistant Award (\$200) --- Inaugural

Kari Knobbe (Advisor: Dr. Glaser)

Digital communication is essential to informing students, faculty, staff, and alumni about all aspects of academic life and enables more effective real-time communication. Kari Knobbe has been serving as the S&T Chem Webmaster since SP19 and she is recognized for the comprehensive overhaul of the website of the Department of Chemistry including major menu revisions, layout redesigns, and content modernization and expansions. Kari consistently demonstrated impeccable work ethic and performed all tasks diligently, carefully, thoroughly, and on time.

2021 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (\$250)

Harmeet Bhoday (Adviser: Dr. Glaser)

For his enthusiasm, talent and aptitude for teaching, and his remarkable diligence regarding his duties, Harmeet Bhoday is a very deserving recipient of the 2021 Graduate Teaching Award. Ever since he began as a GTA for Chem 1310 in the FS19, Harmeet has maintained a reputation among the students as the "go-to TA." Harmeet has a natural ability to relate with the students and consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty to teach. His dedication and professionalism serve to elevate the prestige of this award.

2021 Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award (\$250)

Rushi Soni (Adviser: Dr. Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis)

Rushi has exceptional laboratory skills and innovative research ideas. Rushi has developed new synthetic methodology for the synthesis of amorphous and graphitic carbon aerogels. This new method is beautiful because it is time, energy, and materials efficient. Applications include CO₂ capture, gas separations, supercapacitors, etc. Read more in the primary literature!

2021 Outstanding Graduate Service Assistant Award (\$250)

Nicole Moon (Advisor: Dr. Grubbs)

Nicole's service to the department has been stellar as she is always there to support everyone with a friendly face in whatever way she can. Before COVID, Nicole was assisting with Colloquium: she was meeting with all the speakers during the student engagement time, she would often recruit students to more fully populate these events, and most importantly, she took care of Colloquium snacks! Nicole has volunteered as a graduate student representative in recruiting tours and she is currently the Master of Ceremonies for Alpha Chi Sigma, one of the most important positions in this chemistry fraternity.

2021 Outstanding Dept. of Chemistry Staff Award (\$400)

Dr. Nathan Leigh, Assistant Director Research

Dr. Nathan Leigh is richly deserving of this award and especially so in recognition for his achievement in calendar year 2020. Nathan led the migration of the Shared Instrument Lab to the newly renovated West wing of Schrenk Hall and supervised the maintenance and acquisition of instrumentation. In particular, Nathan contributed substantially to the inventory and organization of departmental instrumentation assets (<https://chem.mst.edu/research/department-instr/>) and to the development and implementation of a sustainable framework for instrument training (<https://chem.mst.edu/research/department-instr/instr-training/>).

2021 Wilbur Tappmeyer Excellence in Teaching Award (\$500)

Dr. Garry "Smitty" Grubbs, Associate Professor of Chemistry

*Dr. Grubbs showed his teaching scholarship in a multitude of ways during his teaching of **CHEM 4510/5510, Introduction to Chemical Analysis** in the Spring Semester of 2020. Dr. Grubbs is unrivaled in his devotion to his students' education, his concern for their well-being, and his willingness to innovate and modernize traditional curricula. He is highly deserving of this recognition.*