

2023 DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AWARDS & BANQUET

Missouri S&T's Department of Chemistry
Dr. Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis, Chair and Professor
Dr. Garry "Smitty" Grubbs, Associate Chair
May 5, 2023, at 6:00 PM
St. Pats Ballroom C, Havener Center

2023 Outstanding Freshmen Awards

Olivia Harling + \$100 Scholarship

2023 Outstanding Sophomore Awards

Emily Sumner + \$100 Scholarship	Emily Ohlendorf
Katharine Gray	Simon Hartman
Harrison Hawxby	Kenneth Reed
Jasmin Billingsley	

2023 Outstanding Junior Awards

Justin Christensen + \$100 Scholarship
HannahScott + \$100 Scholarship
Jada Ayars

2023 Outstanding Senior Awards

Samuel Spinuzzi	Justin Goerger
Justin Nulsen	Evan Anderson
Josie Glenn	Christopher Ryan
Georgia Hamburg	

2023 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award (\$250)

John Tubbesing, Chem 1310 (Nominator: Dr. Cindy Bolon; Adviser: Dr. Jay Switzer)

John's performance as a GTA for Chem 1310 went above and beyond the typical expectations. He was almost like a mentor to the group of GTAs and students. His biggest asset was his ability to be flexible and fit in with various groups of students both intellectually and as a peer. John also worked diligently to ensure that his students not only completed their assignments, but also that they understood the material being covered. He was always available for anyone that needed help and his office hours became extremely popular due to his helpful attitude and being generous with his time.

Zachary Mayes, Chem 1319 (Nominator: Dr. Klaus Woelk; Adviser: Dr. Klaus Woelk)

Zachary has been an exceptional asset to the general chemistry teaching mission. Zac has done much more than his usual GTA duties for Chem 1319 which includes participating in planning experimentations, writing new laboratory procedures, or updating existing ones, and suggesting improvements to the pedagogy of laboratory education. Zac is very diligent in his assigned duties and almost always finishes grading tasks and other responsibilities well ahead of time. Student comments have always confirmed that Zac is a great, yet demanding GTA, who always has the students' success and professional development in mind.

Raheemat Rafiu, Chem 2219 (Nominator: Dr. Terry Bone; Adviser: Dr. Prakash Reddy)

Raheemat has been an asset for the organic chemistry lab. She has grown from being a quiet, shy person, to an excellent coordinator, and instructor making class announcements and fulfilling lab prep duties. She also volunteers frequently to do extra needed tasks, is a conscientious grader and communicates well with the students.

2023 Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award (\$250)

Vaibhav Edlabadkar (Adviser: Dr. Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis)

Vaibhav is currently a senior graduate student in the Sotiriou-Leventis group where his research primarily focuses on polymeric aerogels with applications in CO₂ capture. The aerogel synthesis methods that he is pursuing are quite innovative and are perceived as of immense interest to the broader materials community. In addition to his journal publications, Vaibhav has two provisional patent applications, one as the main inventor, and one as a co-inventor. On top of his exceptional laboratory skills and innovative research ideas, Vaibhav has very good inter-personal and problem-solving skills, which make him well-deserving of the graduate research award.

Brian Jamieson (Adviser: Dr. Rainer Glaser)

Brian has been working with Dr. Glaser on an NSF-funded project focusing on biomimetic and rubisco-inspired CO₂ capture from air. In this highly competitive field, Brian has demonstrated significant creativity in project design and productivity in project realization. His accomplishments are documented by his publications, one of which was highlighted in a journal cover, and several conference presentations at regional and national ACS meetings. Brian has all the attributes of a talented teacher-scholar and is well prepared to embark on his career in academia.

Nicole Moon (Adviser: Dr. Garry "Smitty" Grubbs)

Nicole is bright, highly technically skilled researcher, resourceful, and a great team member. She is excellent in every setting she has been a part of and a wonderful asset to the Grubbs' group. Nicole's research is focused on building a new type of microwave three-wave mixing spectrometer, which forms the basis of an NSF-MRI grant. Her research also involves probing the chiral molecules to help understand better how to get them to respond. She has published several articles and given multiple conference presentations at local, regional, or international conferences. Nicole is a great reflection of our institution and is deserving of our appreciation in return.

Harish Singh (Adviser: Dr. Manashi Nath)

Harish has been working in the Nath group on NSF-funded projects focusing on designing novel electrocatalysts for energy conversion, storage, and sensing. Although this field is highly competitive, Harish with his diligence and hard work could design within a short period of time, several highly efficient electrocatalysts that have never been explored before. His hard work has resulted in multiple publications. Harish was also selected to visit Lawrence Berkeley National Lab for NSF-funded graduate internship during Fall 2022 semester. His academic maturity, sincerity and self-motivation are some of his biggest assets which helped him excel among his peers and make him well-deserving of this recognition.

Santhoshkumar Sundaramoorthy (Adviser: Dr. Amitava Choudhury)

Santhosh is currently a graduate student in the Choudhury group, working on exploring systems for anion-redox chemistry in Li-ion batteries. His work is very creative and of great significance as it takes advantage of anion redox to generate energy, avoiding the use of expensive metals. Santhosh is an ideal graduate student based on his creative research work, scholarly publications, presentations in national and regional meetings, mentoring undergraduate students and participating in extracurricular activities and leadership roles. His multi-faceted achievements make him worthy of recognition as an exceptional graduate student researcher.

2023 Outstanding Graduate Service Award (\$250)

Olajide Adetunji (Adviser: Dr. Paul Nam)

Olajide (Jide) is an extremely helpful, ever-smiling individual who has assisted with the department's various activities including recruitment of students without any hesitation or reservation. He also helps with collecting mass spectrometry data for different groups.

2023 Outstanding Dept. of Chemistry Staff Award (\$400)

Dawn Davis, Business Support Specialist II

Dawn receives this well-deserved award for keeping the department afloat during times of great need. She joined the Chemistry office in July 2022 as the only secretary at that time with multiple tasks ranging from day-to-day operation of the department, departmental budget, grants, payroll, travel authorizations, personnel hiring to creating new forms via Cognito, just to name a few.

2023 Wilbur Tappmeyer Excellence in Teaching Award (\$500)

Dr. Pericles Stavropoulos, Associate Professor of Chemistry

For excellence in the general chemistry mission of the department and dedication to student success.

Dr. Amitava Choudhury, Associate Professor of Chemistry

For excellence and distinction in upper-level inorganic chemistry and effective education to undergraduate and graduate students.

Dr. Chariklia Sotiriou-Leventis, Chair and Professor of Chemistry

For continuous excellence in teaching large lecture courses in organic chemistry with exceptional student ratings.