

Valdosta State University

Department of Chemistry



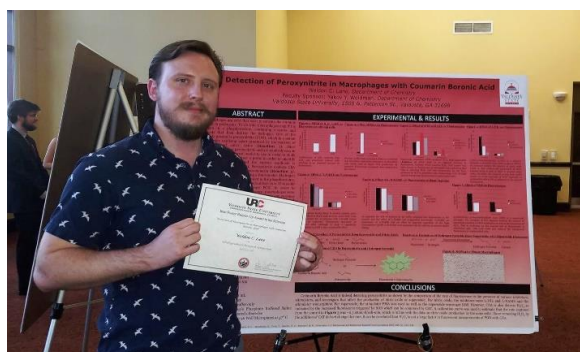
Spring 2018 Newsletter

Students Win at Research Symposium

The Chemistry Department is proud that our students presented 14 posters and talks in the VSU Undergraduate Research Symposium. More than 50 students participated and the *Overall Best Poster in the Sciences* being awarded to two Chemistry students in a tie!



Andres Contreras, “The Effect of Nitrogen on Corn Smut, Insects, and Corn Yield”, faculty advisor Prof. Emily Cantonwine (Biology).



Weldon C. Lane, “Detection of Peroxynitrite in Macrophages with Coumarin Boronic Acid”, faculty advisor Prof. Yakov Woldman.

Faculty Spotlight

Dr. Linda de la Garza
2018 Outreach Volunteer of the Year



The Southwest Georgia Local section of the ACS recognized Associate Professor Linda de la Garza as the 2018 Local Section Outreach Volunteer of the Year. This award is given for demonstrating extraordinary outreach volunteer service within the section. In 2017, she helped organize the Chemistry Olympiad and the National Chemistry Week Illustrated Poem Contest. She also performed different activities at local schools, the regional library, and on campus with the ACS student chapter SMACS. Dr. de la Garza organized and made the Chemistry Science Saturday a great success with numerous visitors in 2017. She also helped organize a ceremony for the local section’s long-term ACS members. Volunteers are only eligible to be recognized once every five years. Dr. de la Garza was previously recognized in 2012.

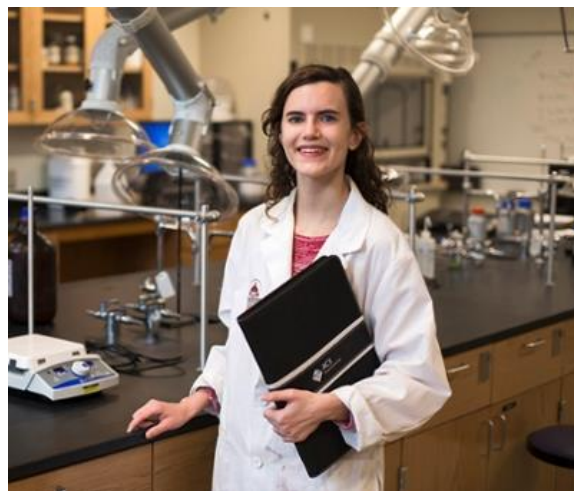
Student Spotlight

Weldon C. Lane
Outstanding Student of the College of
Arts and Sciences and
Outstanding Chemistry Senior Award



A native of Blackshear, GA, William C. Lane joined the Air Force out of high school and he served for five years. During that time, he decided to start his college education at VSU with the intention of going into pharmacy. After attending a few chemistry classes and with a growing interest in chemistry, he changed his focus toward graduate school. He participated in research with several chemistry professors which help him develop the skills necessary to accomplish his goals. He has been an active member of the SMACS chapter at VSU. After graduation, he will attend the Georgia Institute of Technology pursuing a PhD in chemistry. He would like to further his studies in the area of biosynthesis: how living organisms synthesize the chemicals they need and how that could be used to our benefit.

Megan Slater
American Institute of Chemists
Award



Megan Slater has been a chemistry tutor and supplementary instructor leader at VSU. She is involved in student groups as the President of SMACS chapter and the Vice President of Genders and Sexualities Alliance. She was recognized with the 2018 Student Leadership Award from the American Chemical Society. She is a Noyce Fellow and after graduation, she plans to be certified to teach chemistry in secondary education. Over the summer, she is joining the American Chemical Society Internship Program in Washington D.C. There she will work under the Office of Science Outreach in the ACS Education Division. Some of the projects she will work on are associated with National Chemistry Week, Chemists Celebrate Earth Week, and the International Year of the Periodic Table.

The Chemistry Department recognizes outstanding students with several Departmental awards.

The students recognized in 2018 are:

Weldon C. Lane – Outstanding Chemistry Senior Award

Megan Slater – American Institute of Chemists Award

Olivia Moss – Julia Wisenbaker Sumerford Scholarship

Caylor Mark – Optima Chemical - SOWEGA Award

Zachary Youngblood – Inorganic Chemistry Award

Julianna Masonheimer – Polymer Chemistry Award

Zachary Barton – Analytical Chemistry Award

Mehvish Durrani – CRC General Chemistry Award



From left to right: Mehvish Durrani, Weldon Lane, Megan Slater, Zachary Barton, and Caylor Mark

Congratulations to all of our outstanding students!