

NOTE FROM THE DEPARTMENT HEAD



Dear Alumni and Friends of the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department:

We hope our annual newsletter finds you well. Once again, it is time to reflect on another successful year in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Throughout 2025, our students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends continued to demonstrate the excellence that defines our department. We remain committed to providing an outstanding educational experience while advancing impactful research, strengthening community partnerships, and preparing the next generation of scientists.

Our students continue to distinguish themselves through outstanding academic achievement, undergraduate research, scholarships, conference presentations, internships, and successful graduation outcomes. Their accomplishments reflect not only their hard work and dedication but also the unwavering commitment of our faculty mentors. We are proud to celebrate these successes throughout this newsletter and congratulate all of our students on another exceptional year.

Our faculty also enjoyed an outstanding year. Dr. Santimukul Santra received the 2025 CNAS Interdisciplinary Research Award in recognition of his nationally recognized, externally funded research

program. Dr. Gary Meints received the 2025 CNAS Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award for his exceptional commitment to student learning, outreach, and service. Dr. Natasha DeVore received the 2025 CNAS Faculty Excellence in Research Award for her continued contributions to structural biology and undergraduate research mentoring. Highlighting their profound impact in the classroom, Dr. DeVore and Dr. Bryan Breyfogle were both recipients of the student-nominated Awards for Excellence. On the international stage, Distinguished Professor Dr. Nikolay Gerasimchuk traveled to Brazil to deliver a celebrated keynote address at the VII Latin American Crystallographic Association meeting. We are equally proud of the many scholarly publications, presentations, grants, and professional accomplishments highlighted in this newsletter, which continue to enhance the national reputation of our department.

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The past year also marked an exciting period of growth and transformation for our department. We welcomed Dr. Troy Wymore to our faculty and celebrated the completion of several named spaces in the newly renovated Roy Blunt Hall, including the Dr. Matthew and Mrs. Patricia Harthcock Physical Chemistry Research Laboratory, the Dr. Ralph W. Sheets Chemistry and Biochemistry Student Lounge, the Dr. Matthew and Mrs. Patricia Harthcock Chemistry and Biochemistry Inspiration Balcony Supporting Development of MSU Bears, and the Dr. David M. Fraley Student Success and Advisement Center. We are especially grateful to alumna Dr. Mary Krause for establishing a new Biopharmaceutical Scholarship that will support future generations of chemistry and biochemistry students. At the same time, we extend our sincere appreciation to Dr. Reza Sedaghat-Herati for his thirty-five years of dedicated service to Missouri State University and wish him a fulfilling retirement. We also thank Helena Metzker and Vida Mashouri for their many contributions to our department and wish them every success in their future endeavors.

As we look toward the future, we remain committed to expanding research opportunities, strengthening student success, enhancing our teaching and research facilities, and building meaningful partnerships with alumni and friends. Your continued support plays a vital role in helping us achieve these goals. Whether through scholarships, facility improvements, mentoring, or philanthropic giving, your generosity has a lasting impact on the lives of our students and the continued success of our department.

On behalf of our faculty, staff, and students, thank you for your continued encouragement and support. We wish you and your families continued health, happiness, and success, and we look forward to staying connected with you in the years ahead.

Adam Wanekaya
Head, Chemistry and Biochemistry Department
Missouri State University
Springfield, Missouri

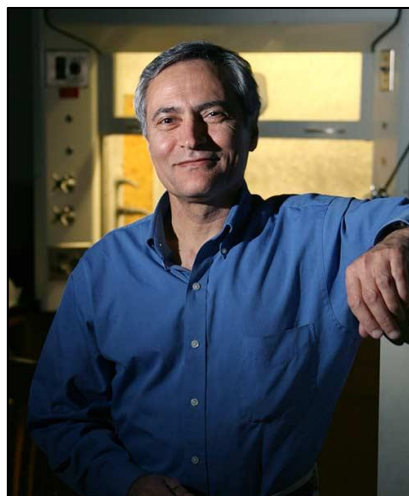
WELCOME NEW FACULTY AND STAFF

Introducing Dr. Troy Wymore, Professor

A Kansas City, Missouri native, Wymore earned his bachelor's and PhD degrees in chemistry at the University of Missouri. He spent over a decade conducting research at institutions such as Carnegie Mellon, Oak Ridge National Lab, University of Michigan and Stony Brook University.



GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS



Dr. Reza Sedaghat-Herati
Retired in 2025

Dr. Reza Sedaghat-Herati has retired from Missouri State University after thirty five years. His career began in the French National Centre for Scientific Research, then he made his way to the University of Alabama – Huntsville, before he finally made his home here as a Bear in 1991. During his career, he authored dozens of publications in numerous journals, and his work has been cited nearly two thousand times. Dr. Sedaghat-Herati represented Missouri State University at conferences, in publication, and above all - day to day in his classroom. Thank you for your many years of service, Dr. Sedaghat-Herati!

Other Departmental Departures



Helena Metzker



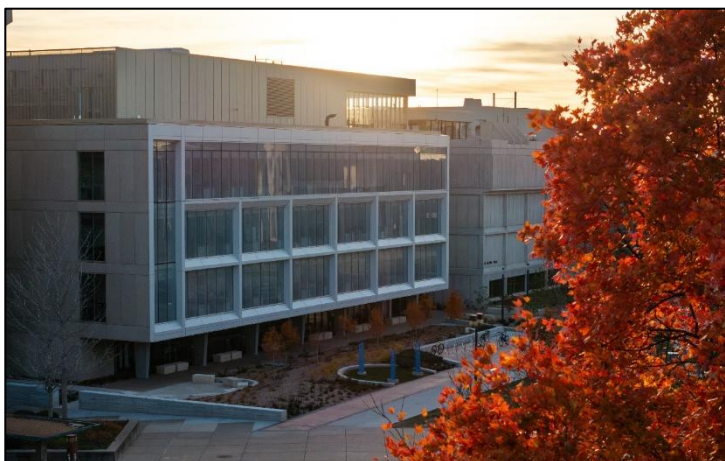
Vida Mashouri

NEW SCHOLARSHIP



Alumna Dr. Mary Krause (BS 2004, MS 2005) established a new Biopharmaceutical Scholarship

Mary Krause, Ph.D earned her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Chemistry from Missouri State University and her Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Kansas. Her doctoral work focused on the characterization of a novel metal binding peptide tag and resulting metal complexes, including novel platinum-protein conjugates for use as targeted anti-cancer therapeutics. After her graduate studies, Mary continued this research at the University of Kansas as a PhRMA Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and as a Scientist at Echogen, Inc. – a startup company that licensed this technology. She is lead author/co-inventor on many patents, publications, conference presentations, and invited lectures. Mary is also a member of the Missouri State University Chemistry Department Advisory Board and of the Board of Directors for the Missouri State University Alumni Association. Mary is passionate about mentoring women in STEM and serves on the global leadership team for the Bristol Myers Squibb Network of Women (B-NOW). We thank Mary for her continued engagement and support across more than two decades.



New Named Spaces in Blunt Hall

Dr. Matthew and Mrs. Patricia Harthcock Physical Chemistry Research Laboratory

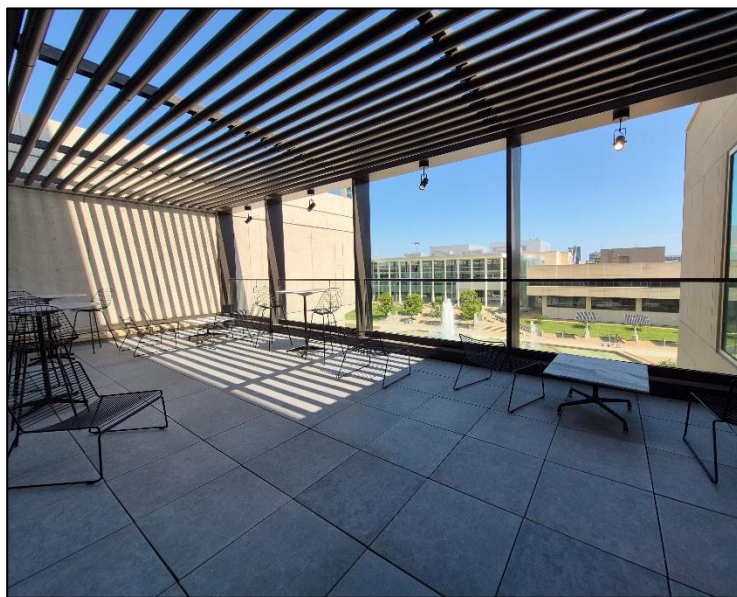


Dr. Ralph W. Sheets Chemistry and Biochemistry Student Lounge

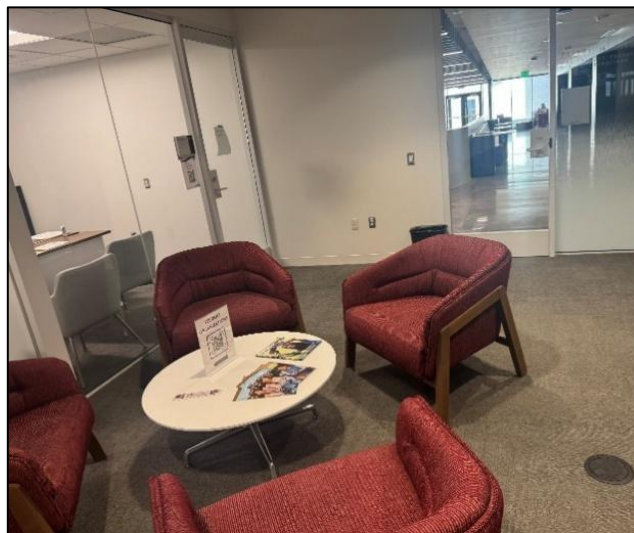


New Named Spaces in Blunt Hall

Dr. Matthew and Mrs. Patricia Hathcock Chemistry and Biochemistry Inspiration Balcony Supporting Development of MSU Bears



Dr. David M. Fraley Student Success and Advisement Center



FACULTY / STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

January 1 – December 31, 2025

Congratulations on these Fine Achievements!



Dr. Santimukul Santra receives the CNAS Interdisciplinary Research Award for 2025!

Santimukul Santra is the 2025 winner of the CNAS Interdisciplinary Research Award. Dr. Santra has established an externally funded research program that epitomizes interdisciplinarity. With funding from USDA (2025-2028) and NIH (2022-2026), Dr. Santra's research integrates expertise from materials science, biochemistry, biology, computer science and agriculture, in addition to chemistry. Along with MSU, his collaborators – with most of whom he has co-authored papers – are from seven institutions.



Dr. Gary Meints receives the CNAS Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award for 2025!

Dr. Meints is the public face of the Chemistry Department within and outside the University. Dr. Meints devotes countless hours to creating intellectually meaningful experiences, by meticulously and thoughtfully creating demonstrations and other activities, locally, regionally, and nationally. To mention a few: Treasurer for the Ozarks American Chemical Society Section, mentor for the Central High School Science Olympiad Team, member of MSU degrees committee, CNAS recruitment committee, CHM and CNAS scholarship committees, NMR Administrator, Coordinator of Science demonstrations, CHM representative at all major recruitment events, etc.

FACULTY / STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Dr. Natasha DeVore receives the CNAS Faculty Excellence in Research Award for 2025!

Dr. DeVore has shown continued excellence in structural biology and significant contributions to acquiring major equipment used across the University. Dr. DeVore is able to maintain a high level of productivity while mentoring one of the largest research groups in the department. The incredible success of her mentoring is evidenced by the inclusion of graduate, undergraduate, and even high school student co-authors in published manuscripts and by a number of students receiving awards for their presentations.

Student-Nominated Awards for Excellence



Dr. Bryan Breyfogle

The nominating students said, "Dr. Breyfogle is one of the best professors I have ever had. He is very knowledgeable about chemistry and is always willing to help anyone. He is very considerate of his students and always makes sure that the labs are running smoothly. Overall, he is the model for what a professor should be."



Dr. Natasha DeVore

The nominating student said, "I have never met a more incredible faculty member. One thing I quickly realized in college is that there's a big difference in someone who's just an expert in their field and someone who is truly a great teacher, and Dr. DeVore is both! I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award than Dr. DeVore."

FACULTY / STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Dr. Gerasimchuk attends the VII LACA meeting

For the second year, Dr. Nikolay Gerasimchuk was the keynote speaker at the VII Latin American Crystallographic Association meeting, held in Fortaleza, Ceará in Brazil from October 11th-17th, 2025. The conference brought together people from 23 countries, including the US, Canada, Germany, and England.

Dr. Gerasimchuk's keynote talk was titled "Why work with thallium? – Structural chemistry of a marvel!"



INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

January 1 – December 31, 2025

Banerjee, Tuhina (Assistant Professor)

Refereed Journal Articles

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Sutton, C., Baffour, K., Soard, C., Patel, R., Santra, S., Banerjee, T. (2025). Plasmonic Nanoceria: A Plasmon-Enhanced Nanohybrid for Rapid and Sensitive Detection of Ebola Glycoprotein.

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Banerjee, T., Frazier, C., Koti, N., Yates, P., Bowie, E., Liermann, M., Santra, S. (2025). Development of Receptor-Integrated Magnetically Labeled Liposomes for Investigating SARS-CoV-2 Fusion Interactions

Journal Article, Professional Journal (Published)

Baffour, K., Koti, N., Nyabayo, T., Balerao, S., Johnson, D., Patel, R., Santra, S., Banerjee, T. (2025). Modulation of α -Synuclein Fibrillation and Toxicity by 4-Phenylbutyric Acid. *16*, 1066-1078

Bosch, Eric (Emeritus)

Journal Article, Professional Journal (Published)

Feld, E., Bosch, E., Unruh, D. K., Krueger, H. R., Groeneman, R. (2025). Hierarchy and cooperativity between π -type halogen bonds and aromatic carboxylic acid dimers in co-crystal formation. *CrystEngComm*, 2025, 5100-5103.

Journal Article, Professional Journal (Published)

Bosch, E. (2025). Crystal structure, Hirshfeld surface and intermolecular interaction energy analysis of the halogen-bonded 1:1 cocrystal 1-bromo-3,5-dinitrobenzene-*N,N*-dimethylpyridin-4-amine. *Acta E, Research Communications*, E81, S2056989025006735.

Journal Article, Professional Journal (Published)

Bosch, E. (2025). Phenyl palladium(II) iodide complexes isolated after Sonogashira coupling of iodobenzenes with terminal alkynes. *Acta Crystallographica E*, E81, 492-496.

Journal Article, Professional Journal (Published)

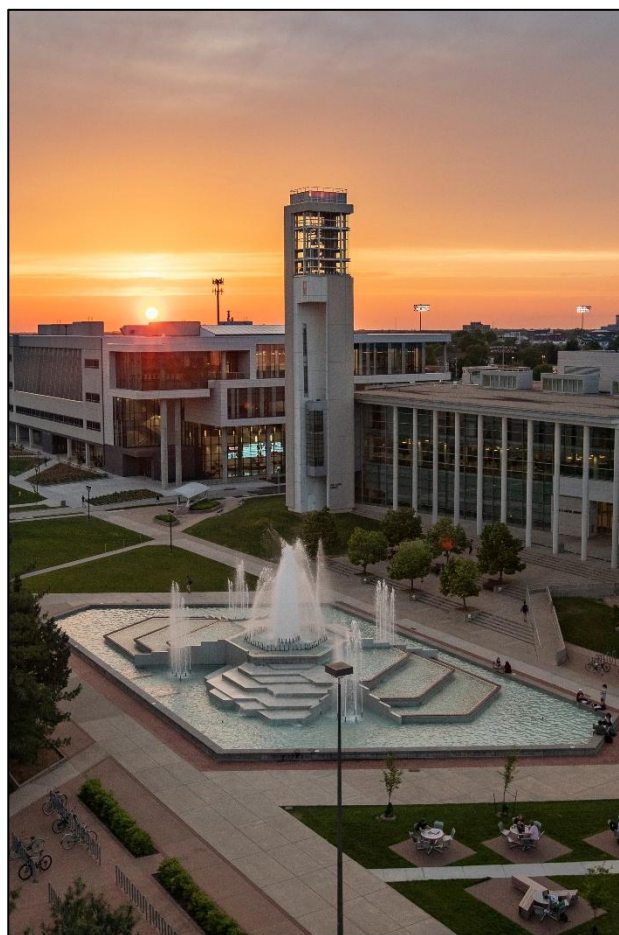
Shapiro, N. M., Govero, M. D., Bosch, E., Unruh, D. K., Groeneman, R. H. (2025). Mixed cocrystal approach influences the yield for a [2+2] cycloaddition reaction within a halogen-bonded organic solid. *Acta C Structural Chemistry*, C81, 193-197.

DeVore, Natasha M. (Associate Professor)

Refereed Journal Articles

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Jurkowski, A., Sitapara, D., Brown, A., Ball, S., Norman, T., Jones, A., Gilbert, J., Criblez, T., Yates, A., Bansal, S., DeVore, N. (2025). Cyan thermal proteins derived from thermal green protein. *PROTEINS: Structure, Function, and Bioinformatics*, 93(11), 1962-1972.



INTELLECTUAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Gerasimchuk, Nikolay N. (Distinguished Professor)

Books

Book, Scholarly-New (Accepted)

Gerasimchuk, N. N. (2025). CYANOXIMES: CHEMISTRY, COORDINATION AND ORGANOMETALLIC COMPOUNDS AND THEIR APPLICATIONS. (ed.). Cambridge, MA: Elsevier. Inc..

Refereed Journal Articles

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Gerasimchuk, N. N. (2025). Crystallographic characterization of products of side reactions encountered during synthesis of cyanoximes.. *Journal of Chemical Crystallography*, 56(14).

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Gerasimchuk, N. N. (2025). Electrochemically active molybdenum phosphate with open- framework structure. *Zeitschrift für anorganische und allgemeine Chemie; WILEY-VCH*.

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Gerasimchuk, N. N. (2025). Effects of Novel Organoantimony Compounds on the Fungal Pathogen *Cryptococcus neoformans*. *Journal of Medical Microbiology*, 2025(74), 002058.

Rico, Cyren (Associate Professor)

Refereed Journal Articles

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Clubb, P., Riley, P.-B., Maximo, R., Linson, J., Horn, E., Peralta-Videa, J., Medina-Velo, I. A., Rico, C. (2025). Exposure of Wheat Plants to Cerium Oxide Nanoparticles for Two Generations Affects the Third Generation's Responses to Perfluorooctanesulfonic Acid. *ACS Omega*, 10(40).

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Jia, S., He, C., Ji, L., Pope-Buss, R., Rico, C., Hong, J., Gardea-Torresdey, J. L. (2025). Evaluation of cerium oxide nanoparticles' effects on pakchoi (*Brassica chinensis* L.) based on metabolomics analysis. *Plant Physiology and Biochemistry*.

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Ogundele, O., Fakunle, M., Pope-Buss, R., Churchman, J., Akinwande, B., Kirwa, N., Ofoegbu, P., Rico, C. (2025). Physiological and metabolic responses of wheat (*Triticum aestivum* L.) after one-generation exposure to perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS). *ACS Agricultural Science & Technology*.

Santra, Santimukul (Assistant Professor)

Refereed Journal Articles

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Santra, S. (2025). Development of Receptor-Integrated Magnetically labeled Liposomes for Investigating SARS-CoV-2 Fusion Interactions. *Analytical Chemistry*, 97, 4490.

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Santra, S. (2025). Modulation of α -Synuclein Fibrillation and Toxicity by 4-Phenylbutyric acid. *ACS Chem. Neurosci*, 16, 1066.

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Santra, S. (2025). Plasmonic Nanoceria: A Plasmon-Enhanced Nanohybrid for Rapid and Sensitive Detection of Ebola Glycoprotein. *ACS Applied Nano Materials*, 8, 9604.

Wang, Fei (Associate Professor)

Refereed Journal Articles

Journal Article, Academic Journal (Published)

Decocq, V., Wang, F. (2025). Kaleidoscopic Incommensurate Structures of Aluminum-Substituted Rhenium Silicides. *Inorganic Chemistry*, 64(26), 13163-13169.



**Missouri
State**
UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Graduate Students Attend the NOBCChE 2025 Conference

Missouri State University graduate students Mary Fakunle, Tony Nyabayo, and Rahab Kanogo, all attended and presented at the 52nd annual NOBCChE conference on September 22-25, 2025 in Atlanta, Georgia.

NOBCChE stands for the *National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers*, a non-profit professional organization dedicated to building a strong cadre of people of color in science and technology by providing professional development, networking, and community support in STEM fields.

The theme of this year's conference was titled "Still I Thrive" and highlighted resilience, career growth, and community within STEM fields.

All 3 students were invited to present at the conference. Mary Fakunle presented "LC-MS analysis of lettuce after exposure to molybdenum disulfide and sulfure nanoparticles". Tony Nyabayo presented his poster: "Understanding the thermal properties of 4,5-dinitrobenzenes". Rahab Kanogo presented her poster: "Molecular Dynamics and Machine Learning for Designing Peptide Probes for Biosensors to Improve Disease Diagnosis."



(from L to R): Fakunle, Nyabayo & Kanogo at the conference.

Missouri Academy of Science Annual Meeting: April 11-12, 2025 – University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg, MO



Dr. Cyren Rico with students at MAS meeting.

Many Chemistry and Biochemistry graduate students, undergraduate students and faculty attended and presented at the 62nd annual Missouri Academy of Science 2025 meeting.

Presenters included: Dr. Gautam Bhattacharyya, Dr. Natasha DeVore, Dr. Tuhina Banerjee, Dr. Santimukul Santra, Dr. Cyren Rico, Rahab Kanogo, Morgan Brill, Andrew Pettenger, Shayd Gothard, Tony Nyabayo, Riley Pope-Buss, Mary Fakunle, Blessing Akinwande, and Jacob Churchman,

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Outstanding Senior – Abigail Teitelbaum



“Missouri State University created an environment where I was able to succeed both professionally and academically. I was able to create many strong and lifelong relationships with my fellow students and my professors. The department has facilitated my development into a skilled academic, and I have learned how to present and communicate new research while balancing relationships, study, work, and extracurricular activities.

During my time at Missouri State University, I conducted research with Dr. Banerjee’s lab examining nanoparticle activity and kinetics. I have learned how to use dynamic light scattering (DLS), surface plasmon resonance (SPR), and spectrophotometry to examine the speed, affinity, and specificity of binding events while comparing them to similar studies and literature values. I have gained a better understanding of the biochemical events that occur within the body, how they are measured, and how they can be applied to industry. The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry is filled with approachable, knowledgeable, and friendly professors I knew I could rely on to thoroughly answer my questions. That approachability inspired me to take my academic studies further.

I have had many fulfilling experiences with my peers, class lectures, labs, and research that have made me into a well-rounded individual and scientific thinker. These experiences have made me further appreciate Missouri State University and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry’s commitment to its students and educational experiences. I will forever be grateful for the experiences I have had with professors, peers, and the department, and I am excited to apply what I have learned at Missouri State University to further my education and academic career.”

Congratulations, Abigail!

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

2025 Michael N. Compton Public Affairs Essay Contest

Each year, Missouri State University holds an essay writing competition in which students are challenged to write about the Public Affairs Mission. This year's theme for the contest was "Resilient People, Resilient Future". Chemistry and Biochemistry student Nguyen Thi placed third out of more than thirty students with her essay inspired by the unique resilience of bamboo trees. Here is what Thi had to say about her experience:

"When I saw the essay contest theme, I immediately thought about the image of bamboo trees – symbols of strength and flexibility despite facing challenges,"

"I wanted to show that resilience operates on many levels – personal, community, societal and environmental – and that resilient individuals ultimately help build resilient communities and a sustainable future."

"This recognition motivates me to continue learning about ethical leadership, cultural competence and community engagement. To me, this award is not only a prize, but also a meaningful acknowledgment of my efforts to align with Missouri State's public affairs mission,"



2025 Masterson Family Graduate Student Research Award



Mary Fakunle (front row, 2nd from right) received the Masterson Family Graduate Student Award, supporting graduate students conducting thesis, dissertation, or independent field research.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Symposium Winners 2025

Chemistry and Biochemistry

1st Place: Abby Teitelbaum, Rahab Kanogo, Eniola Arogunyo, Mitchell Kim, Alexis Holyfield, Trishna Timalsena, Fei Wang, Santimukul Santra and Tuhina Banerjee

Redox-Active Nanostructures with Ultrahigh Catalytic Activity for Colorimetric Applications

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Tuhina Banerjee

1st Place: James Speake

Doxorubicin Prodrug Encapsulated Activatable MR Nanoprobe for the Theranostic Treatment of Cancer

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Santimukul Santra

2nd Place: Tim Howard

Representational Determinism in Nucleophilic Aliphatic Substitution and Elimination Reactions

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gautam Bhattacharyya

2025 -CNAS 3-Minute Theses Finalists

Tony Nyabayo

Trishna Timalsena

31st Annual Graduate Einhellig Interdisciplinary Forum Winner

Outstanding Poster Presentations:

Tony Nyabayo, Rahab Kanogo

American Chemical Society Officers 2025

President/Treasurer: Thomas Banta

Vice President: Ben Coonrod

Writer: Elijah Billue

Social Media Coordinator: Alayna Davis

Student Advisor: Trishna Timalsena

Faculty Advisor: Dr. Gary Meints

2025 SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS

Chemistry Dept. Scholarship Fund	Kyle Ramaker
Chemistry Scholarship	Emma Brower
Chemistry Board of Adv. Summer Research Fellowship	Mitch Lindner, Elaine Phan, Kyle Ramaker
Doris C. Lorz Scholarship	Thomas Banta, Sarah Catlett, Megan Cauley, Ben Coonrod, Spencer Fraley, Morgan Lewis
Dr. & Mrs. Vernon Thielmann Chem. Education and Chemistry Undergraduate Research Award	Levi Vaughn
Dr. Robert W. Martin Research Fellowship	Chandler Cannell, Rachel Helton, Ryan Stratman, Nick Williams, Alaina Worland
Emil Lorz Memorial Scholarship	Nora Curry, Emilee Dees
Eugene T. Scafe Memorial Scholarship	Renewal: Ben Coonrod, Maddie Ellis, Rachel Helton, Morgan Lewis New: Emilee Dees, Trishna Timalsena
Harriett H. Ford Memorial Scholarship	Ambree Hoover
Harthcock Chemistry Research Fellowship	Riley Pope-Buss
Louise & Roland Harthcock Scholarship	Allison Loughary
Robert Lloyd Ernst Summer Graduate Assistantship	Jacob Linhardt
Robert S. Christie Memorial Scholarship	Tahna Anisa, Michaela Pittman
WEB & AOB Memorial Scholarship	Mary Fakunle, Tony Nyabayo
William J. Husa Chemistry Scholarship	Morgan Brill
Wyman & Sue Grindstaff Chem. Education Scholarship	Levi Vaughn
Foundation for Immunotoxicology Award	Alaina Worland
ACS Organic Division Undergraduate Award	Olga Demicheva
ACS Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry	Kyle Ramaker
ACS Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry	Kyle Ramaker, Emilee Dees, Samuel Hays
POLYED Undergraduate Organic Chemistry Student Award	Kyle Ramaker

2025 SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARD WINNERS

Outstanding Environmental Chemistry Student

Brooke Winder

General Chemistry Achievement Award

Tanha Anisa, Emilee Dees, Timothy Hayes,
Nicole Thomas, Allison Loughary, Kohl
Brinkoff, Thomas Banta, Zach Bos, Derek
Bradley, Samuel Hays, Rachel Helton

Outstanding Physical Chemistry Student Award

Hunter Kimberlin-Poore

Outstanding Biochemistry Student Award

Abigail Teitelbaum

Outstanding Inorganic Chemistry Student Award

Caroline Gichuru

Outstanding Student in Instrumental Analysis

Abigail Teitelbaum

Outstanding Senior (Undergraduate Only)

Abigail Teitelbaum



2025 Foundation Scholarship Winners

GRADUATES 2025

Congratulations on your Graduation! We are so Proud of You!

Spring 2025

Master's Degree

Ethan Grier
Acacia Jurkowski

Bachelor's Degree

Samantha Ball
Adriana Cancino
Tyler Cobb
Olga Demicheva
Robert Johnson
Zachary McCubbins
Katherine Poage
Ye Sang
Jamie Sencenbaugh
Abigail Teitelbaum
Trishna Timalsena
Brooke Winder

Undergraduate Certificate

Samantha Ball
Anna Bessie
Sierra Bower
Olga Demicheva
Cambrie Gani
Emma Goodwyn
Gianna Hannon
Ella Iram
Daniel Kim

Madison Krier
Zerek Langley
Jasmin Marin
Cory Sivils
Ca Sung
Kailey Taylor
Trishna Timalsena
Abigail Westrum

Summer 2025

Master's Degree

Preston Clubb

Fall 2025

Master's Degree

Rahab Kanogo
Tony Nyabayo
Mary Fakunle
Jacob Linhardt

Bachelor's Degree

Collin Mourot

Undergraduate Certificate

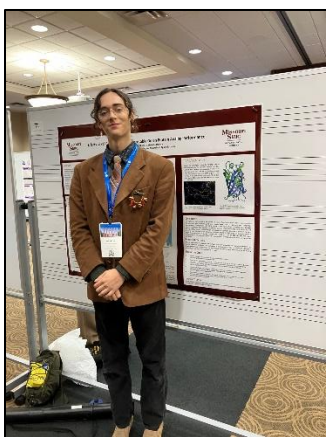
Ava Fanning
An Nguyen



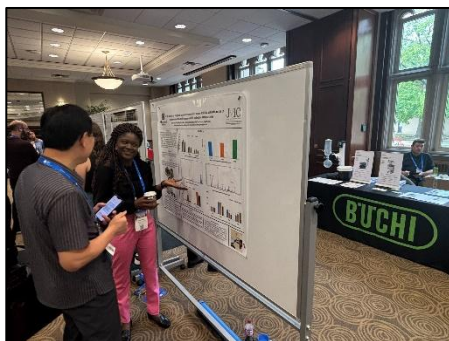
ACS MIDWEST REGIONAL MEETING – FALL 2025

Numerous Chemistry Department students and faculty attended the 2025 ACS Joint Midwest Regional Meeting held October 12-14, 2025 in Columbia, Missouri, at the University of Missouri. Hosts for the meeting were the University of Missouri Local Section of the ACS. The conference provided MSU Chemistry Department's undergraduate and graduate students ample opportunity to present their research and make great contacts. The meeting featured plenary speakers, exciting technical sessions, special symposia, poster sessions, regional awards, social events, and a large vendor expo. In addition, there were special undergraduate programming, chemistry education workshops for high school teachers, and events sponsored by the local Younger Chemists Committees and the Minority Affairs Committees. It was a great opportunity for undergraduate and graduate students to present their research and get to know the Midwest and Great Lakes chemistry communities.

Here are some photos from the event!



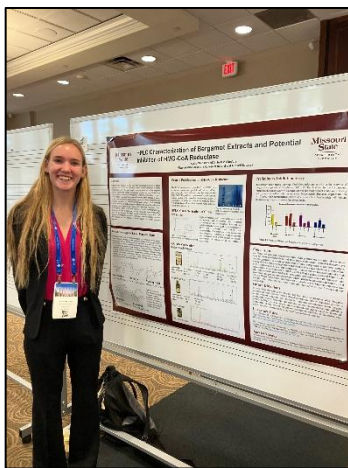
Avery Elliott



Mary Fakunle



Mary Fakunle and Tony Nyabayo



Alaina Worland

GIVING

Missouri State University cannot operate without generous contributions from alumni and friends. Your support enables us to provide scholarships, teaching equipment, and more. We hope you will consider making a contribution; your gift is tax deductible. If you would like to contribute, please make checks payable to the MSU Foundation in support of Chemistry, and mail them to: **Blunt Hall 410D, 901 S. National Ave., Springfield, MO 65897**. You can also donate online using the link below and follow the prompts to enter any details.

<https://webapps.missouristate.edu/giving/pledgesearch.aspx?search=chemistry%20dept-general>

At the link above – choose a gift amount and select “click here to search or choose multiple designations” Type Chemistry into the search bar and enter, select one or both options below. If you do not see your designation, you will have the opportunity to enter gift details on the main page by selecting “I would like to write in my designation”.

Thank you!

Be sure to check us out on social media and see all the cool and fun things happening in the department!

Follow us on Facebook, X, and Instagram @mostatechem.

2025 CHEMISTRY BOARD OF ADVISORS

- Chair – Mike Ebers
- Vice-Chair – Nathan Schultheiss
- Harold Boone
- Wyman Grindstaff
- Matthew Harthcock
- Mary Krause
- Geoffrey Manani
- Mike Minor
- David Osborne
- Corrie Sifers
- Annette Wardell

A special thanks to Adam Wanekaya, Michaela West, and Chemistry Staff for their contributions to this issue of *Molecules and Moles*, the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department’s Newsletter at Missouri State University.

Missouri State University adheres to a strict non-discrimination policy and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin (including ancestry, or any other subcategory of national origin recognized by applicable law), religion, sex (including marital status, family status, pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other subcategory of sex recognized by applicable law), age, disability, veteran status, genetic information, or any other basis protected by applicable law in employment or in any program or activity offered or sponsored by the University. Sex discrimination encompasses sexual harassment, which includes sexual violence, and is strictly prohibited by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. This policy shall not be interpreted in a manner as to violate the legal rights of religious organizations or military organizations associated with the Armed Forces of the United States of America. Missouri State University is an equal opportunity employer and institution. Questions concerning compliance with regulations may be directed to the Office for Institutional Compliance, Carrington Hall 205, 901 South National Avenue, Springfield, Missouri 65897, 417-836-4252.