

GRADUATING AMBASSADORS

Gavin Arnold
Anna Campbell
Elizabeth Cashwell
Olivia Culbert
Adrian De la Peña
Ava Erickson
Luke Fasse
Sara Franco-Duque
Stephanie Gonzalez-Knott

Yanely Hurtado
Caleb Konecek
Lauren Konopacki
Alica Krusee
Tiffany Luu
Elise MacKirdy
Maximo Mondragon
Sarah Ann Nielsen
Ronald Lynxx Palmenberg

Delaney Petruzelli
Aidan Prah
Natalie Rawlings
Soleil Robinson
Michaela Ryan
Erin Schuette
Joelle Smith
Joanna Vargas
Dylan Weaver
Andrew Zoretic

The Chemistry & Biochemistry Awards/Scholars Graduation Celebration

Thursday • May 14, 2026 • 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM
Student Union Memorial North Grand Ballroom



and the Adventure Begins!!!



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE TUCSON

**Chemistry
& Biochemistry**

2025–2026 Chemistry and Biochemistry Graduates

Doctor of Philosophy Biochemistry

Md Shamiul Islam Rasel

Master of Science or Master of Arts Chemistry

Sydney Cordova

Doctor of Philosophy Chemistry

Rashmi Amarakoon

- 2021-2022 George Gregson Scholar in Chemistry

Ayan Batyrkhanov

Nicholas Christie

Dylan Dyer

Bai Hei

- 2024 Galileo Circle Scholar

Lipsa Jena

Christopher M. Marshall

- 2025 Victor P. Thalacker Chemistry Graduate Fellow
- 2024 David F. O'Brien Graduate Fellow
- 2024 Galileo Circle Scholar
- 2021-2022 George Gregson Scholar in Chemistry

Swathi Menon

Steven Nick

Lily North

Michael Okine

Devin Pontigon

- 2021 Early Career Excellence in Research Award

Nhi Van

Nathan Weintraub

Additional majors are indicated

*Double Degree

+ W. A. Franke Honors College

QR for online program



Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts - Biochemistry

Dana Alsahli

Gavin Arnold +

- 2025 Galileo Circle Scholar
- 2025 Biochemistry Outstanding Junior
- 2025 Charles Y. F. Hoyt Scholar
- 2024 Galileo Circle Scholar, UBRP
- 2024 Biochemistry Outstanding Sophomore
- Student of the Month, April 2024
- 2023-2024 Dr. John Lee Compton Exploratory Mini Grant
- Student of the Month, April 2023

Emma Avouris PSIO +

- 2025-2026 Dr. John Lee Compton Exploratory Mini Grant

Annika Bogstad LING

Calvin Briscoe COSC

Kelsey Buffington

Anna Campbell +

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice
- 2025 Dr. John Lee Compton Exploratory Mini Grant
- 2025 Honorable Mention, CBC Poster Fair, Advanced Biological Sciences

Branham Jeffrey Carpenter MCB +

- 2025 Galileo Circle Scholar

Lainey Caswell Vet Science

Diezel Cochenour

Tanner Cohrs

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Thesis

Henry Davis Biology *

Michael Eduardo Davis +

Adrian De la Peña +

- 2024-2025 Biochemistry Outstanding Sophomore
- 2023-2024 Biochemistry Outstanding Freshman

Chaz DeCoteau +

- 2024-2025 UROC Scholar

Kylie Rachel Ernst +

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Thesis
- 2024-2026 Dr. John Lee Compton Exploratory Mini Grant

Carolina Figueroa

Marc Garcia MCB * +

- 2025-2026 Robert & Marjorie Vaughan Scholar
- 2024-2026 MARC Scholar
- 2025 Galileo Circle Scholar

Arnold Guerrero

- 2024-2025 College of Science General Scholar

Mariella Gunther+

Rylan Hammond MCB +

Leah Harroun

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2025 ACS Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry

Leah Herring MCB * +

- 2023 Honors College Study Abroad Scholar

Kyla Holmquist

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice

Chase Robert Johnson

Kaylee Kimbrell PSIO * +

Jessica Klingler

Kira Knapp

Caleb Konecek MCB, SPAN * +

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2025-2026 Newell A. Younggren Scholar
- 2024-2025 English Honors Program for Creative Writing
- 2024-2026 MARC Scholar
- 2025 Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence
- 2024-2025 Dr. Thomas M. and Candace C. Grogan Scholar
- 2024-2025 Excellence Award in Biological Sciences
- 2024 Galileo Circle Scholar, MCB
- 2024-2025 Salomon & Carr Morgan GC Scholar
- 2024-2025 UROC Scholar
- 2021-2024 Bartlett for Honors College Scholar
- 2022-2023 Study Abroad Stipend
- 2022-2023 Sarah D. Doyle Memorial Scholar
- 2021-2022 Honors College General Scholar

Lauren Konopacki

Alicia Krusee

Ethan Leigh MCB *

Jacquelyn Lo Bianco

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2024-2025 Robert & Marjorie Vaughan Scholar
- 2024 Galileo Circle Scholar, MCB
- 2022-2023 Honors College Stipend

Tiffany Luu +

- Phi Beta Kappa

Maxwell Maloney

Mara Lluitza Navarro Perez

- 2025 Summer UROC Scholar

BerylIn Morrison

2025–2026 Chemistry and Biochemistry Graduates

Le Ngoc Nguyen

Brynn Nicholas Classics, NCS * +

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Thesis

Sarah Ann Nielsen Biology * +

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2024 Galileo Circle Scholar

Sofia Orrantia MCB

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2023-2025 Diversity in Cancer Research Scholar

Broderick Oxley MCB

Ronald Lynxx Palmenberg German * +

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2025 Dr. John Lee Compton Exploratory Mini Grant
- 2025 Galileo Circle Scholar

Pari Patel

Delaney Petruzelli +

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice
- 2025 CBC Poster Fair, 2nd Place, Emerging Physical Sciences
- 2025 Galileo Circle Scholar
- Student of the Month, November 2024
- 2024 Poster Fair, Viewers Choice

Aidan Prael

Natalie Rawlings MCB * +

- 2025-2026 Dr. John Lee Compton Exploratory Mini Grant
- 2025-2026 Barry Goldwater Scholar
- 2025 Galileo Circle Scholar
- 2025 Charles Y. F. Hoyt Scholar
- 2025 Ronald Gonzalez Wildcat Spirit Award
- 2025 Drachman Student Outreach Award (CAPLA)
- 2025 CBC Poster Fair 2nd Place, Advanced Biological Sciences
- 2024 Galileo Circle Scholar, UBRP
- Student of the Month, September 2024
- 2024 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Advanced Physical Sciences

Aldo Reyes

Soleil Robinson +

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice
- 2024-2026 Patrick M. Hefferan Memorial Scholar
- 2024-2026 Honors College Grant
- 2022-2026 Bartlett for Honors College Scholar
- 2023-2024 W. A. Franke Honors Scholar

Michaela Ryan +

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice
- Student of the Month, January 2025
- 2024-2026 Excellence Award in Biological Sciences

Kiyan Saissan PSIOM * +

- 2024-2026 Honors College Stipend
- 2023-2024 Honors College Scholar

Kate Santiago MCB * +

Lucas Schomburg

Erin Schuette

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice
- 2025 Michael Cusanovich Galileo Circle Scholar
- 2025 CBC Poster Fair 1st Place, Advanced Biological Sciences
- Student of the Month, October 2024
- 2024 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Advanced Biological Sciences
- 2024-2025 Excellence Award in Biological Sciences
- 2024 Honors & Creative Inquiry Award
- 2024 Biology Research Abroad: Vistas Grant

Jordan Schultz +

Sanjana Shahreen +

- Phi Beta Kappa

Meghan Sheehan PHSC +

Sophia Shomper +

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Thesis
- 2024-2025 Honors College Stipend
- 2023-2024 Dr. John Lee Compton Exploratory Mini Grant

Jordan Singleton

Joelle Smith CHEM, MCB

- 2024-2025 UROC Scholar

Lane Vazquez Luna

Dylan Weaver +

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice

Sidonia Windels

- Cancer Center Stipend

Audrey Winkle MCB +

- 2025-2026 Arizona Leveraging Educational Assistant Partnership (AzLEAP) Grant
- 2024-2026 Dr. Thomas M. and Candace Grogan Scholar
- 2023-2024 Rotary Club of Tucson Scholar
- 2023-2026 Anthony & Jane Zelenka Memorial Scholar
- 2022-2023 Beau Aros Memorial Scholar

Jocelyn Wong MCB +

- 2024-2026 Science Opportunity Scholar

Charles Woodring

Bachelor of Science or Bachelor of Arts - Chemistry

Daniel Aranda

- 2024 Poster Fair, Viewer's Choice
- 2024-2025 Alice Van de Verde Scholar

Cole Bellomo +

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2024-2025 AZ Society for Coatings Technology Scholar

Ella Janine Birenkrant

Elizabeth Cashwell +

Vance Dorsett

Ava Erickson

Luke Fasse +

- Phi Beta Kappa
- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice
- 2025 Chemistry Outstanding Junior
- 2025 Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence
- 2024 Michael A. Cusanovich Galileo Circle Scholar
- 2024 CBC Poster Fair 2nd Place, Emerging Physical Sciences and Viewer's Choice

Sara Franco-Duque

- 2025 Fiona Hodgkinson Galileo Circle Scholar

Jaxon Goddard-Westland Math *

- 2025 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Advanced Physical Sciences

Stephanie Gonzalez-Knott

Erik Gray

Ava Grote

Jennifer Huynh

Elise MacKirdy

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice

Azalia McKasson

Gwendolyn McKay

- 2024-2026 MARC Scholar

Cody Mitchell

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Honorable Mention, Advanced Physical Sciences

Maximo Mondragon

Ethan Ng

Jorge Ruiz PSIOM *

- 2025-2026 Dr. Harry W. Edwards Chemistry Memorial Scholar

Reese Sausedo

Joanna Vargas

- 2026 CBC Poster Fair Viewer's Choice

Matthew Toth

Andrew Zoretic

- Phi Beta Kappa

2025 - 2026 CBC Awards/Scholars & Graduation Celebration

Speaker Program

Musicians: School of Music, Undergraduate String Quartet

Welcome

Craig Aspinwall, PhD
Professor and Department Head, Chemistry and Biochemistry (CBC)

Presentation of Galileo Circle Scholars

Carmala Garziona, PhD
Sarah Brown Smallhouse Dean of the College of Science
Professor, Geosciences

Presentation of Undergraduate & Graduate Awards

Dee Belle-Oudry, PhD
Associate Department Head, CBC

Katrina Miranda, PhD
Professor, CBC
Undergraduate Research Coordinator

Andrei Sanov, PhD
Professor, CBC

Closing Remarks

Dawn Coletta, PhD
Associate Professor, Medicine

Erin Schuette
CBC Outstanding Senior
and
Excellence in Research



THE UNIVERSITY
OF ARIZONA

2025-2026 Awards and Recognition

Galileo Circle Scholars

Graduate Students

Zachary T. Bachler

Michael Cusanovich Scholar

Yasaman Fazeli

John Federice

Hayden Leatherwood

Aidan McMahon

Annika Schulz

Farinaz Soleymani

Hriday Sutradhar

Undergraduate Students

Michael A. Balducci

Fiona Hodkinson Scholar

Elizabeth Gharthey

Andrea Hernández

Elena Hughes

Michael Cusanovich Scholar

Isaac Kailat

Nandini Manepalli

Akshay Menghani

Alice Miranda

Jose Morales

Laura Serikova

Chase Valentine

Undergraduate Awards

Chemistry & Biochemistry

Outstanding Senior Fall 2025

Dylan Weaver

CBC/Biochemistry Outstanding Senior

Erin Schuette

Chemistry Outstanding Senior

Luke Fasse

CBC/Biochemistry Excellence in Research

Erin Schuette

Chemistry Excellence in Research

Cole Bellomo

Biochemistry Outstanding Junior

Andrea Hernández

Biochemistry Outstanding Sophomore

Laura Serikova

Chemistry Outstanding Sophomore

Elena Hughes

CBC Outstanding Senior Thesis

1st Place: Adrian De la Peña

2nd Place: Ronald Palmenberg

3rd Place: Kylie Ernst

ACS Hach Scholars

Alice Miranda

Kaylee Vega Covarrubias

ACS Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry

Evan Thomas

ACS Undergraduate Award in Inorganic Chemistry

Luke Fasse

ACS Undergraduate Award in Physical Chemistry

Cody Mitchell

ACS Undergraduate Award in Organic Chemistry

Cole Bellomo

Elise MacKirdy

Charles Y. F. Hoyt Scholars

Kylie Ernst

Akshay Menghani

Excellence Award in Biological Sciences

Kylie Ernst

Elizabeth Gharthey

Akshay Menghani

Chase Valentine

Dr. Harry W. Edwards Chemistry Memorial Scholars

Dharma Patel

Kyra Wykes

Matthew Krause & Jan Parker Scholars

Katelyn Clarke

Bianca Halcomb

Michael A. Wells Undergraduate Research in Biological Sciences Scholars

Kia Hashemi

Isaac Kailat

Alice Miranda

Laura Serikova

Patrick M. Hefferan Memorial Scholars

Joseph Gutierrez Villela

Josefa Romero Jaramillo

Anne Shotton & Patrick M. Hefferan Memorial Scholars

Jennifer Dominy

Abena Oduro-Gyaminah

Dr. Thomas M. and Candace C. Grogan Scholars

Clara Donovan

Anahí Macias

Linnea Thim

Chase Valentine

Arizona Society for Coatings Technology Scholars

Lawson Lee

Alexander Korolevich

Kathryn K. & James D. Steele Scholars

Daniel Aranda 2025

Bianca Halcomb 2026

Lela E. Booher Scholar

Laura Serikova

Royal Society of Chemistry Certificate of Undergraduate Excellence Recipients

Isaac Kailat

Alice Miranda

CBC Outstanding Senior Ambassador

Adrian De la Peña

CBC Outstanding Undergrad Peer Mentor

Isabelle Seohyun Shin

Ronald Gonzalez Wildcat Spirit Awardees

Olivia Culbert

Luke Fasse

Yanely Hurtado

Abena Oduro-Gyaminah

Delaney Petruzelli

Michaela Ryan

Erin Schuette

Graduate Awards

Outstanding Graduate Students

Outstanding Scholarship

Katherine Gold

Outstanding Service

Evelyn W. Cheng

Outstanding Teaching

Waleed Yual

CBC Outstanding Graduate Peer Mentor

Sam LaMotte

Dr. Wayne Cody Scholar in Medicinal Biological Chemistry

Jeff Jheng

Carl S. Marvel Scholar

Katherine Gold

David F. O'Brien Graduate Fellow in Chemistry

Abigail Page

Victor P. Thalacker Chemistry Graduate Fellow

Hayden Leatherwood

Herbert E. Carter Awardee

Zachary T. Bachler

Dr. Curtis L. Schilling, Jr. Graduate Scholar

Ramandeep Kaur

Kathryn K. & James D. Steele Scholars

Sydney Cordova 2025-2026

Jenna Courey 2025-2026

Howard P. Klein Early Career Excellence in Graduate Research

Debolina Sarkar

CBC Early Career Excellence in Graduate Research

Hayden Leatherwood

John Hostetter Scholar

Abigail Page

Lela E. Booher Scholar

Jenna Courey

2026 CBC Undergraduate Thesis & Research Poster Fair

Senior Thesis

1st: Caleb Konecek

2nd: Erin Schutte

Biological Sciences Advanced

1st: Kaia Mount

2nd: Ria Sidaiah

Biological Sciences Emerging

1st: Laura Serikova

2nd: Kristine Porter

Physical Sciences Advanced

1st: Elise MacKirdy

2nd: Dylan Weaver

Physical Sciences Emerging

1st: Marley Novak

2nd: Alexander Korolevich

Special Recognition

2026 Dean of Students Robert Logan Nugent Senior Award

Lane Vazquez Luna

2026 Molecular & Cellular Biology Outstanding Senior

Natalie Rawlings

2025-2026 Astronaut Scholar

Natalie Rawlings

2026 NSF Graduate Research Fellow

Sophia Shomper

2026 Mensch Awardee AstroBiology

Nandini Manepalli

2026 Dana & Jeffrey Vandersip Endowed Humanities Award

Chloe Thompson

Chase Valentine

2026 Dante S. Lauretta; Katherine Crombie Award & College of Humanities Scholar

Alice Miranda

2026 Donna Swaim Study Abroad

Elizabeth Gharthey

26-27 ARCS Marley Foundation Scholar Award; 2026 Arizona Astrobiology Center Seed Grant

Katherine Gold