

## 2018 Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship

**Claire Alexander Vinson**  
**Smith College**



Claire Vinson is a student in excellent academic standing. She is a gifted scientist, a good thinker, possesses exceptional time-management and organizational skills, and has clearly made the most out of the resources available at Smith College (extensive research in History and Chemistry, special studies in Chemistry, study abroad program, learning Spanish). She has shown her growth as a student, and is excelling in research in a physical chemistry lab. Claire writes about her research that she studied the chemical and topographical functionalization of Si(100) surfaces in order to further understand how multifunctionalization affects the surface of a silicon wafer. She enjoyed this so much that she is beginning to design her own experiments with a focus on the hydrosilylation of oxidized Si(100) surfaces, in preparation for an honors thesis. Her research advisor, Kate Queeney, writes that Claire pays attention to detail but also stays focused on the big picture, often asking astute questions about why a certain approach is chosen. Claire has begun to share ideas for larger directions the work might take on. Professor Kevin Shea writes about Claire that she is naturally inquisitive, dedicated, and self-confident, and doesn't shy away from a challenge. Claire is able to calmly and methodically approach novel problems that fluster many other classmates, and all with a cheerful attitude. Claire's combination of classroom and research accomplishments, along with her outstanding interpersonal skills, is unusual for a chemistry major in her junior year. Professor Shea believes that Claire will continue to develop as an independent scientist at Smith and has a very bright future after graduation.