

2019 ANNA LOUISE HOFFMAN AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN GRADUATE RESEARCH – *Lauren Elizabeth VanGelder*

As indicated by the Criteria for this award, the winner of this award must show excellence and amazing achievements in the area of graduate research. The nominators' letters clearly show Lauren Elizabeth VanGelder's productivity and achievements in chemical research as tremendous! Starting at the State University of Buffalo (SUNY) (2011-2015) and continuing on at University of Rochester (2015-present), Lauren is completing her work in, "new area of development for nonaqueous redox flow batteries---one that provides new insights into the capabilities of multimetallic charge carriers." In fact, she has published seven first-author manuscripts within the span of two years, on this extremely important topic highly related to the "effective integration of renewable energy from intermittent source such as solar and wind." As a recipient of a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, one nominator describes Lauren as "a total Rockstar" in the laboratory. The other states that "Lauren is fully equipped with expertise in organic, inorganic, and organometallic synthesis as well as electrochemistry, an impressively broad skillset."

In the area of Teaching and Service, Lauren was a recipient of the Walters Teaching Award, which recognizes "outstanding undergraduate teaching by graduate student teaching assistants." She is known to work extremely hard to prepare for teaching workshops and to make herself accessible to undergraduate students. Also, she has been actively involved in various "outreach" activities, such as; Horizons Program and the Early Connections Opportunity, which promotes increase in representation of underrepresented minorities in the STEM fields.

It is very encouraging to note that Lauren is described as "a remarkably level-headed and grounded" individual", who represents a "complete package"! Last fall, she was awarded the Outstanding Graduate Student, at the University of Rochester. Now, this remarkable individual was judged as the first place winner by ALL of our Iota Sigma Pi judges for the 2019 Anna Louise Hoffman Award!