

## **Hadley Johnston, Winner of Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship**

### **By Sarbjeet Kaur, Director of Student Awards**



The Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship is given to a junior chemistry student at an accredited college or university for excellence in chemistry or biochemistry. The 2025 winner is Hadley Johnston. She was nominated by Prof. Maren Buck, Ph.D. Hadley is earning a B.A. in Chemistry with an American Chemical Society (ACS) Certification from Smith College, and she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Bioorganic Chemistry post-graduation. Hadley discovered her passion for chemistry in General Chemistry I with Professor Kate Queeney and found the subfield she wanted to pursue in Bioorganic Chemistry with Professor David Gorin. Her long-term goal is to contribute to the development of targeted drug delivery systems for the treatment of cancer. At Smith College,

Hadley conducts research in Professor Nathan Derr's group, engineering nanocarriers with loadable lipid nanoparticle interiors and functionalizable DNA origami exteriors for the targeted delivery of chemotherapeutics. Additionally, she engaged in a National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) in Professor Jennifer Laaser's group at the University of Pittsburgh, where she synthesized polymeric mimics of proteins that undergo liquid-liquid phase separation. Beyond the laboratory, Hadley tutors for Organic Chemistry I & II at Smith College and strives to increase self-efficacy among girls in STEM, engaging 4th-8th grade students, across the Pioneer Valley, in hands-on activities to inspire interest in biology, chemistry, engineering, and physics.