

# Kentucky Wesleyan College

## Chemistry News

Winter 2023

Dear Alumni and Friends,

Greetings from Ohio, where I live and work. I had a wonderful time returning to the KWC campus for Homecoming in September. What a joy it was to return to the place that shaped me and prepared me for medical school.

This was my first trip back in several years, and I was so excited to tour the beautiful addition to campus—the Wells Activity Center. The building was Owensboro Christian Church back in the 80s when I was a student, and it was fun to see how the building has been transformed to serve our students and the larger community.

While on campus, I was flooded with memories of my four years at KWC. It had been my dream to become a doctor since I was four years old, and my high school counselor recommended KWC. I was convinced that I needed to learn more about it after finding out that the College had a 90% acceptance rate to medical school. The campus was an arduous eight-hour drive from my Canton, Ohio, home in those days when there was no close interstate for us to get to Owensboro. Yet, when Mother and I visited, I knew it was the place for me—friendly and warm with an excellent academic reputation. I felt welcome from the day I arrived. I found that all my professors were accessible, and I thrived immediately.

I met Dr. W.L. Magnuson on that first visit, and as a student, he (along with Drs. Henry Connor and Bob Flachskam) guided and encouraged me. My love for chemistry grew under their mentorship.

After earning my degree in chemistry at KWC, I entered the College of Medicine at The Ohio State University. KWC prepared me well, as my remarkable mentors at KWC had taught me to process what I learned and to think creatively. I have always felt that my Wesleyan experience was exactly what I needed and that I would not have thrived in a large university setting in my undergraduate years.

Today I am a neurologist at the Cleveland Clinic, where I am a specialist in neurocritical care and stroke. I find my work to be a privilege and a blessing, and I know that what I have achieved is by the grace of God.

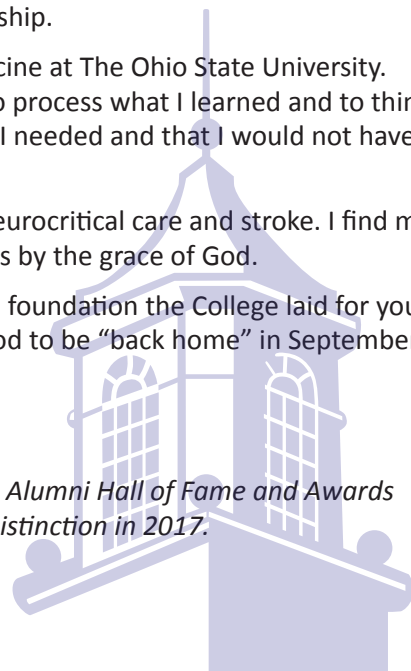
I am sure you, too, hold KWC dear in your memories and are grateful for the foundation the College laid for your life. If you have not been to campus lately, I urge you to plan a visit. It was so good to be “back home” in September.

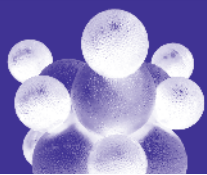
Dr. Gwendolyn (Ford) Lynch '86

*Dr. Lynch was recognized with the Alumni Achievement Award at the annual Alumni Hall of Fame and Awards Celebration in September. She was also featured as a Wesleyan Woman of Distinction in 2017.*



*Dr. Thomas Mitzel, president, Dr. Gwen (Ford) Lynch '86 and Doug Hoyt '84 at the 2023 Alumni Hall of Fame and Awards Celebration.*





## Chemistry Program Update

Greetings from the Kentucky Wesleyan College Chemistry Program! We have had an exciting year. The chemistry faculty are all very busy teaching classes, doing research and modernizing the chemistry program. Kayla, Phil and Darlene have all been doing research alongside students. Dr. Kayla Keller has worked with senior Austin Sexton '23 this year developing new laboratory experiments. She has also submitted a paper, along with Dr. Justin Trulen (math), Dr. John Sinclair (physics), and student Lauren Meagher '23. Dr. Phil Voegel has been working with Seth Koloski '24 on monitoring the presence of metals in tree cores. Dr. Darlene Ingram '91 worked with Wiley Cain '23, Aric Lyons '23, Uriel Gonzalez '23, Sophia Tsiraildis '24, Kailee Jones '23, Annemarie Knutson '23, Ayden Gillilan '25 and Holly Hale '24. Each student developed skin care products, addressing specific skin needs.

In April, KWC held the annual Scholars Day and students presented their research. Three of Dr. Ingram's research students, all seniors, presented: their research, Annemarie Knutson, Wiley Cain, and Uriel Gonzalez.

Also in April, the local American Chemical Society group, Indiana-Kentucky Border Section hosted Dr. Rachel (Pharris) Rigsby '00.

Thanks to the generous gift of Dr. Bill Lacefield '58, the Thermo-Fisher GC was installed. We now have the GC and the IR, thanks to his support. Drs. Ingram, Voegel and Keller are currently working on program curriculum changes to utilize these wonderful instruments.

The Chemistry Program wishes everyone a great Holiday Season. We are grateful for the support the alumni have given us over the years.



*Dr. Darlene Ingram '91 with Dr. Rachel (Pharris) Rigsby '00.*

## Scholarship Recipients Fall 2023—Spring 2024

The Chemistry Program designates scholarship recipients each year. These scholarships (both endowed and those supported annually) are generously provided by alumni and friends of the program. The 2023-2024 recipients are:

### **White and Kenner Chemistry Scholarship**

Sara (Gootee) Brown '25  
Owensboro, Ky.

Bridgette Keeling '24  
Pendleton, Ky.

### **Connor, Flachskam, Magnuson Chemistry Scholarship**

Nick Johnson '25  
Owensboro, Ky.

### **Ellie Magnuson Fellowship**

Holly Hale '24  
Vine Grove, Ky.

Taylor Hayes '25  
Utica, Ky.

### **Magnuson Scholars**

Austin Sexton '24  
Hartford, Ky.

Ayden Gillilan '25  
Ashville, Ohio

Diana Wesolosky '25  
Midlothian, Va.

### **Thomas Kendall Chemistry Scholarship**

Cyia Robertson '26  
Ekron, Ky.

### **Stephen C. Snyder Chemistry Scholarship**

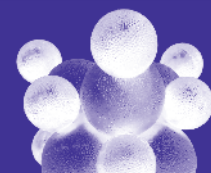
Seth Koloski '25  
Dayton, Ohio

Nick Johnson '25  
Owensboro, Ky.

Makenna O'Bryan '26  
Dubois, Ind.

Cyia Robertson '26  
Ekron, Ky.

# Congratulations to Our Alumni for Their Recent Successes



Each year we hear from chemistry alumni who recently received an advanced degree or a promotion in their professional career. Listed below are those from whom we have received information. Please keep the Chemistry Program informed of your achievements by emailing Dr. Darlene Ingram at [darlene.ingram@kwc.edu](mailto:darlene.ingram@kwc.edu).

## **Seth Applegate '17**

In Ph.D. program at St. Louis University and working with iron and manganese complexes.

## **Tia Chavella '21**

Received the master of science in forensic science with a concentration in chemistry and toxicology from Oklahoma State University

## **Kiah Gledhill '19, M.D.**

University of Kentucky  
College of Medicine  
Residency in General Surgery at USA Health University Hospital Mobile, Ala.



*Kiah Gledhill '19 with Dr. Magnuson*

## **Sydney Goff '19, M.D.**

University of Kentucky  
College of Medicine-  
Bowling Green  
Residency in Obstetrics-  
Gynecology at Houston Methodist Hospital  
Houston, Texas

## **Jason Hicks '03, Ph.D.**

Tony and Sarah Earley Professor of Energy and the Environment, promoted to full professor and associate dean for Graduate and Postgraduate Affairs  
College of Engineering, University of Notre Dame  
South Bend, Ind.

## **Chad Lyons '92**

Named Teacher of the Year at St. Xavier High School  
Louisville, Ky.

## **Joe Morton '79, D.M.D.**

Received the Fellowship Award by the Kentucky Dental Association for his outstanding contributions to dentistry in Kentucky

## **Leslie (Chinn) Pemberton '15, PA-C**

M.S., South College, Knoxville, Tenn.  
Joined the Kentucky Skin Cancer Center, Dermatology & Cosmetics  
Owensboro, Ky.

## **Elliott Whitworth '18, M.D**

University of Kentucky  
College of Medicine  
Transitional Year at  
Medical Center, Bowling  
Green, Ky.  
Residency in Neurology  
at TriStar Centennial  
Medical Center  
Nashville, Tenn.



*Dr. Magnuson with Elliott Whitworth '18*

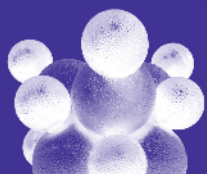
## **Fred Wright '80**

Installed as chair of the  
Kentucky Wesleyan Board  
of Trustees in June 2023

A '26  
Ekron, Ky.

**Sophia Tsiralidis '24** was awarded a Wesleyan Fellowship to work with Dr. Darlene Ingram this academic year in the skincare research lab.





## Congratulations to Our Chemistry Majors

Each year, the chemistry faculty recognizes our chemistry majors who perform at a high academic level. They are given awards and scholarships during Honors Convocation in the spring. Funding for these awards is provided through generous donations by chemistry alumni and friends of the program. The chemistry faculty congratulates the 2022-2023 recipients.



**Benjamin Bowen '25**  
Beaver Dam, Ky.  
Karen D. Fisher-Brasher Physics-  
Chemistry Award



**Uriel Gonzalez '23**  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
Abernathy Chemistry Scholarship  
Award



**Michael Gray '23**  
Calhoun, Ky.  
Karen D. Fisher-Brasher Physics-  
Chemistry Award



**Nick Johnson '25**  
Owensboro, Ky.  
Connor, Flachskam, Magnuson  
Award



**Aric Lyons '23**  
Henryville, Ind.  
Chemistry Alumni Award  
Peters Chemistry Scholarship  
Award



**Chris Mangold '23**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Chemistry Alumni Award



**Lauren Meagher '23**  
Monroe, Mich.  
Abernathy Chemistry Scholarship  
Award



**Clayton Summers '25**  
Owensboro, Ky.  
Chemical Rubber Company  
Outstanding Freshman  
Achievement Award

### Students honored at the annual American Chemical Society Indiana-Kentucky Border Section meeting in April:

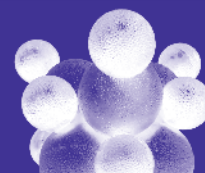
**Nick Johnson '25** (left)  
Owensboro, Ky.  
Outstanding Sophomore  
Chemistry Student Award

**Seth Koloski '25** (right)  
Dayton, Ohio  
Outstanding Junior Chemistry  
Student Award  
Outstanding Analytical Student

**Lauren Meagher '23** (center)  
Monroe, Mich.  
Outstanding Senior Chemistry  
Student Award (Has received  
recognition as outstanding  
student three consecutive years)



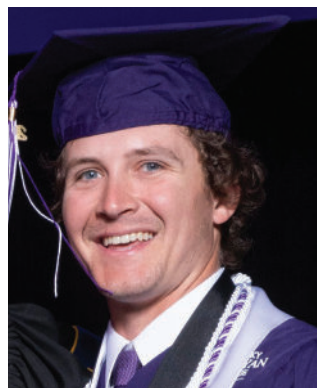
# Chemistry Graduates



## Congratulations to the Class of 2023



**Uriel Gonzalez**  
Las Vegas, Nev.  
Career plans unknown



**Aric Lyons**  
Henryville, Ind.  
School of Optometry  
The University of Alabama at  
Birmingham



**Chris Mangold**  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
Graduate school in chemistry  
The Ohio State University



**Lauren Meagher**  
Monroe, Mich.  
Graduate school in chemistry  
University of Michigan

## Faculty Notes



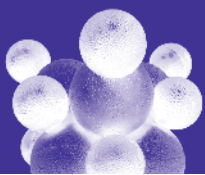
**Dr. Henry Connor**  
**Professor Emeritus of Chemistry**

The Connors had another quiet year. Some health problems were encountered and overcome. Modern medicine is helpful when one gets older. Highlights included trips to see daughter Rebecca and her family in Pennsylvania at Christmas, to Troy, N.Y., to see grandson Dylan graduate from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and travel to North Carolina in August to see friends and stay at the beach for a few days. Returning from the R.P.I. trip, Henry, Nancy, Rebecca and Rhys swung by Portland, Maine to see Nancy's older brother, Ed. Dylan recently began an engineering position at a Boeing facility in St. Louis. Rhys, Rebecca and Jason continued with their bagpiping. Henry continued to play poker and golf. He also helps get food for the refugees. Nancy continues her work with Afghan and African refugees by accompanying them to medical facilities. We wish everyone a happy holiday season and a successful new year.

**Dr. Darlene Ingram '91**  
**Assistant Professor of Chemistry**

Dr. Ingram had a busy year in 2023. In February, she earned a diploma in natural skincare formulation from the accredited International School of Natural Skincare. She is using her new skills in her research lab and worked with eight research students during the academic year. After earning the diploma, Dr. Ingram applied





## Faculty Notes (continued)

for professional development funds and enrolled in a certificate program in advanced serum formulation. In October, she completed all assignments for the certificate and is “patiently” awaiting feedback.

She also attended a workshop in Kansas to learn to develop course undergraduate research experiences (CURE) and is currently developing CURE projects to enhance her 400-level courses. These courses will better prepare students for the workforce or graduate school. As program coordinator, Dr. Ingram oversaw the installation of the new Thermo-Fisher gas chromatography instrument. This included all the laboratory modifications required prior to installation.

It wasn't all work this year. Her son, Michael, started eighth grade and participated in the Boonville High School Marching Band. Every weekend in the fall, Dr. Ingram, husband Bryon and Cindy (Michael's grandmother), traveled to marching band competitions every weekend. This year BHS made it to the ISSMA Semi-State band competitions.

Over the summer, Dr. Ingram, Bryon and Michael spent two weeks in Alaska. The Alaskan cruise started in Vancouver and lasted a week. They made stops in Ketchikan, Skagway and Juneau and enjoyed glaciers, whale watching and various activities. They then spent a week traveling on land. The trip ended in Fairbanks with a visit to an Alaskan musher, and they got to feed and pet the sled dogs.

Dr. Ingram is looking forward to a promising 2024.



**Dr. Kayla (Milner) Keller**  
**Assistant Professor of Chemistry**

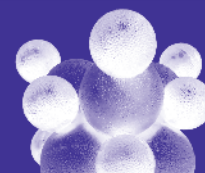
Happy holidays from the Keller family!

Oscar turned 5 last December. He had a successful heart catheterization in March and at his follow-up visit was cleared to go a full nine months before his next appointment! He started kindergarten this past fall and is doing great. He also joined Cub Scouts and is having a blast as a Lion Scout.

This past summer, Kayla, Joe and Jacob, along with other scouts from both the BSA girls' and boys' troops traveled to the BSA High Adventure Base, Sea Base in the Florida Keys. We participated in the “Out-Island Adventure.” We started by paddling war canoes roughly six miles to Big Munson Island, a primitive island owned by the BSA, where we lived for the week. During our time on the island, we did things like exploring the island, kayaking and shark fishing off the docks. We also spent a day deep-sea fishing, and our group caught a 10-foot tiger shark, a base record! We also snorkeled at night and during the day. It was certainly a memorable experience, and we are looking forward to more like it in the coming years.

Jacob is now a sophomore in high school and has had a very exciting year. In March, he played Fred in Forest Park's production of “Oklahoma!,” completed his Eagle Scout project over the summer and successfully passed his Eagle Board of Review to earn the rank of Eagle, and the Forest Park Marching Rangers placed first in their class at the state finals this year! He was once again selected for All-State Choir and will perform in Indianapolis in January. He recently participated in the annual live Glockenspiel at the Ferdinand Christkindlmarkt.

Joe recently decided to pursue further graduate course work in economics to allow him to offer dual credit economics at Forest Park. He is also very active in scouts, has been the cubmaster of the Ferdinand Pack for many years and is an assistant scoutmaster for the BSA boys' troop. He was able to attend summer camp with members of the troop again this summer at Ransburg Scout Reservation in Bloomington, Ind. He was also asked to take on a new role as district commissioner for the Lincoln Heritage District and will be participating as a staff member in the upcoming wood badge course.



**Dr. W.L. Magnuson**  
**Professor Emeritus of Chemistry**

It has been another good year for the Magnuson clan. Kirsten and W.L. took no long vacations, but they enjoyed a great week in Maine and short trips to Atlanta, Chicago, Orlando and Pittsburgh. Kirsten stays busy teaching part-time in the Music Department at Wesleyan, giving private lessons and enjoying tennis. Barbara continues teaching in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Kentucky and supervising pharmacy residents, volunteering at her church and helping with her granddaughter, Gracelynn. After completing a year of general surgery at UK, Justin is now a resident in orthopedic surgery at Rothman Orthopaedics with AdventHealth in Orlando., Fla. Grandson Weston flies with JetBlue between Boston and Europe. Grandson Blake is completing his final year in pharmacy at UK. Granddaughter Ellie is in the engineering program at UK and her daughter, Gracelynn, celebrated her second birthday in October.



**Dr. Phillip Voegel**  
**Associate Professor of Chemistry**

This year I have been teaching general chemistry lecture and laboratory courses, concepts in chemistry labs, and analytical and instrumental courses. This fall I taught a freshman seminar course as well. Working with a group of mostly non-science majors has been interesting and enriching. I have attended several KWC football games and other events on campus and regularly participate in Wednesday chapel.

I have become a life group leader for young adults at my church and started singing in the choir. This year I am performing as a singer for the first time in a Christmas program.

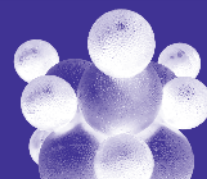
I led the Indiana-Kentucky (INKY) local section of the American Chemical Society and organized several local meetings including "Perspectives and Reflections of Three African American Chemists: Reflections on Careers, Experiences and the Future" in collaboration with the ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry. The Zoom panel discussion with Dr. Isiah M. Warner (Louisiana State University), Dr. Willie E. May (former director of National Institute and Standards and Technology) and Dr. James W. Mitchell (AT&T Bell Laboratories) was outstanding and uplifting.

I have submitted a grant proposal to ACS to fund similar in-person panel discussions during Black History Month and Women's History Month in spring 2024. I also hosted Dr. Rachel (Pharris) Rigsby '00, chair of the Chemistry Department at Belmont University, as our keynote speaker for the Annual INKY Awards Banquet where we presented the inaugural Seyler Service Award to Mitch Luman, the George and Dorothy Eykamp Director of Science Experiences at the Evansville Museum from 1985–2023.

I led our ACS local section's U.S. National Chemistry Olympiad qualifying events for aspiring high school students and gave a chemistry demonstration program and led hands-on experiments for kids at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science in celebration of National Chemistry Week. I also participated in a trunk-or-treat program at my church where I did chemistry demonstrations for over 800 children.

My daughter, Anastasia, is now working for Deaconess Health System and my son-in-law continues to work for Alcoa. They will adopt their first child in early 2024. My son, Keven, continues to work in the IT Department at KWC and purchased his first house this year. Mindy, my wife of 31 years, continues to work at the START Center at OCTC.

# Thank You for Supporting the Chemistry Program



The chemistry faculty is very grateful for the generous support our alumni and friends have provided over many years. These funds go into endowed scholarships and recognition awards for chemistry majors and are used to purchase equipment that is not included in the annual budget.

We wish to thank the following individuals who made donations to the program during the previous fiscal year (June 1, 2022-May 31, 2023):

Dr. David Blandford '08	Richard Long '85
Dr. Debra Bunger '79	Dr. Gwendolyn (Ford) '86 and Darvin Lynch
Dr. BC '05 and Hope Childress	Dr. W.L. Magnuson and Kirsten Ahnell
Drs. Perry '93 and Rebecca Corbin	Dr. Brittany (Winn) McKinley '11
Eli Lilly and Company	Novartis
Nancy (Wood) '76 and Dr. Henry Connor	Beth (Robinson) '73 and Dan Ronk
Dr. Sydni (Fazenbaker) '14 and Micah Crowell	Dr. Kim (Cecil) '88 and James Schuster
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund	Schwab Charitable Fund
Karen Fisher-Brasher '77	Anita Seber
Sharon (Miller) Grannan '80	Dr. Ronald '80 and Susan (Taylor) Tyler '79
Drs. Troy '93 and Carol (Haynes) Haleman '92	Leah (Bennett) Vandiver '77
Maurice '78 and Dr. Patrice (Webster) Hancock '80	Dr. Sarah Vickery '97
Dr. Kristi (Wright) Horlander '91	Drs. Barbara (Magnuson) '88 and Michael Woodward
Mark '83 and Dr. Paige (Fenton) Huls '84	Ellie Woodward
Dr. Arba Kenner '74	Fred '80 and Melinda Wright

*To invest in the Chemistry Program, visit Wesleyan's secure online giving site at [kwc.edu/give](http://kwc.edu/give), scan this QR code, mail a check or contact the Office of External Relations at [externalrelations@kwc.edu](mailto:externalrelations@kwc.edu) or 270-852-3142.*

*We are deeply grateful for your generous investments in the Dr. W.L. Magnuson Scholars Program, for which we continue to accept donations.*

*Gifts sent by mail must be postmarked on or before December 31 to receive 2023 tax credit. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.*

*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

SCAN ME



The College has received over \$300,000 in cash donations and completed pledges for the W.L. Magnuson Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will provide four \$3,500 scholarships annually for chemistry majors. W.L. is grateful and humbled by the generous response in contributions to the fund. As additional contributions are made, the amount of the scholarships will increase.