

## **Rebecca Hoerres, Winner of Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research**

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



The Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research is given to full-time woman graduate student who is candidate for a graduate degree in an accredited institution. Rebecca Hoerres was nominated by Prof. Justin Walensky. Rebecca is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Missouri under the advisement of Dr. Heather Hennkens. She received Bachelor of Science Honors degrees in Biology and Chemistry from Graceland University in 2019. During her undergraduate training, Rebecca was selected to attend the American Chemical Society and Department of Energy sponsored Nuclear and Radiochemistry Summer School (NCSS) as a student and returned the following year as a teaching assistant. Participating in NCSS inspired her to pursue a career in

nuclear/radiochemistry.

Rebecca's graduate research has been focused on the development of therapeutic and diagnostic (theranostic) radiopharmaceuticals for the detection and treatment of cancer. While in graduate school, she has received several awards including David E. Troutner Fellowship in Radiochemistry (2022) and the Brekenridge/Lyons Award for Outstanding Graduate Research (2023). She also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the University of Missouri section of the Three Minute Thesis (3MT) competition. Rebecca recently successfully defended her Ph.D. and will be graduating in May 2024. After graduation, she will be taking a Postdoctoral Research Associate position at a national lab.