

## OSURA Scholarship Recipients 2021-2022

### Kayleana Green

Kayleana Green will be entering her third year at OSU in fall of 2021-22 and is from Coquille, Oregon. Kaylee is majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a Pre-Med Option. Her career goal is obtaining a Doctorate of Neuroscience and working to increase our knowledge of how the brain functions. She has an excellent academic record and involvement in undergraduate research, as well as commendable activities of leadership and volunteering. She has been participating in undergraduate research with a project entitled “Ionic Currents and Steroid Sensitivity of Hypothalamic Neurons.” The overall goal of the project is to increase understanding of the circadian rhythm and how hormones and other factors can lead to improved sleep cycles and thus improved health. Kaylee feels her chosen professional area, through both her current research and her career goal work, has great potential for creating increased knowledge of brain function. Furthermore, she feels this increased knowledge can provide substantial contributions to society and, particularly, health aging where neurological disorders such as Alzheimer’s and strokes have such negative impacts.

### Rujul Kumar

Rujul Kumar (**Roo-jewl Koo-mar**) is a junior from Portland, Oregon. He is enrolled in the Honors College, majoring in Biology Pre-Med with minors in Chemistry and Psychology. He maintains an outstanding GPA while completing a rigorous science curriculum. He volunteers for many programs, including exercising Multiple Sclerosis patients, tutoring underserved students and mentoring at STEM camp. The basis of his honors thesis is research on the impact of red light on aging in fruit flies who have been exposed to blue light, which shortens the life of fruit flies. Because humans are increasingly exposed to blue light from various devices, this research has important relevance to aging in humans.

### Hayleigh Middleton

Hayleigh is a University Honors College Junior from Florence, Oregon. She is majoring in Biology/Pre-Med in the College of Science. Her studies in Biology have offered her a unique opportunity not many college students get, tracking Gray Whales and their feeding habits and behaviors off the Oregon Coast. Her recommendations show a development of managerial and organizational abilities that helped Hayleigh win high praise as a thoughtful leader. Hayleigh has had a life-long interest in the health care field, from elementary school to an entire year in high school spent shadowing health care professionals. Her career goal is an MD degree, with a specialization in geriatrics, an interest she gained working in the same nursing home as her mother. Her goal is to focus on Alzheimer’s and dementia research. Hayleigh works part-time in Chemistry Stores and has been a Research Assistant in the OSU Grey Whale Foraging Ecology

project. She was appointed Department head at Regency Florence at age 17 and served as Medical Scribe at Proscribe in Salem. Hayleigh was also awarded an OSURA scholarship in 2020.

### Kelsey Shimoda

Kelsey Shimoda, a junior from Houston, Texas in the College of Science, is majoring in Honors Biochemistry and Molecular Biology with a minor In Chemistry and Psychology. Not only is she an excellent student but she has been engaged in directed research in the Department of Integrative Biology for over two years. To date, she has been recognized with several awards for her research accomplishments. Her interests are in the determining possible effects of an FDA approved drug on the effects of blue light on aging. Long term, her goal is to complete a PhD in the biology of aging and to continue to research the mechanisms of aging and how we may slow down the aging processes in humans. She hopes to use the OSURA grant in writing her Honors Thesis on blue light and aging.

### Madelyn Smith

Madelyn is a third-year student in the College of Engineering, from Salem, Oregon; she is pursuing an Honors degree in Computer Science. Her goal is to work in the field of Robotics, leading to designing assistive devices that would aid those with physical impairments; such devices would be of great value to those of all ages. Madelyn's career goal is to teach at the university level. Her work experiences cover a range of campus activities: Teaching Assistant in Introduction to Computer Science and in Computer Architecture, and Project Leader in the Environmental Sensing Laboratory. As to off-campus activities, she has been Service Director for her sorority as well as Chief Financial Officer. To summarize her campus recommendations, "She is a rising star who goes well beyond what is asked in any assignment and will make a great contributor in her field as well as a great educator."

### Mara Steele

Mara is a junior from Keizer, Oregon, majoring in Psychology with a minor in Biology. In addition to performing her classwork at an outstanding level, she has been working at the Center for Autism in Salem and Autism Footprints in Corvallis and Salem, engaged in a number of tasks. These range from working directly with children diagnosed with Autism to creating a parent newsletter. At OSU she is a member of Psi Chi, the Psychology honorary, and was elected chapter secretary in May 2020. Mara's career objective is to work as a neuropsychologist, either in clinical practice or in a research environment, studying the relationship between brain function and behavior.