Megan de Beer awarded the SACI James Moir medal

Ms Megan de Beer has been awarded the prestigious 2024 James Moir Medal by the South African Chemical Institute (SACI) for her outstanding performance at the Honours level. This accolade, which is awarded annually to one student per tertiary institution across South Africa, is reserved for those who have achieved a minimum final pass mark of 75%.

Megan is currently pursuing her Master's degree under the guidance of Professor Melanie Rademeyer, specialising in materials science and crystallography. Her research focuses on the design and synthesis of hybrid organic-inorganic perovskite materials, which hold significant promise for applications in optoelectronic devices, including light-emitting diodes (LEDs) and solar cells.

Reflecting on her academic journey, Megan shared that her passion for chemistry was rekindled during her final year of her BSc degree in Biochemistry, particularly through her courses in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry. Her exceptional performance led to her being awarded the Analytical Achiever Award for being the top student in Analytical Chemistry at the third-year level. This recognition solidified her decision to pursue her postgraduate studies in Chemistry. "Although the road has been a bit bumpy at first, my love and curiosity for Chemistry helped me push through. I am sure my first-year self would be in awe (and shock) over my achievements today," Megan remarked.

Megan expressed her gratitude for receiving the James Moir Medal, stating, "I am incredibly thankful and proud to receive this award. It is a great honour to be recognized by SACI, and I am grateful for the opportunities and support I've received along the way."

As Megan embarks on the next phase of her academic and professional journey, the SACI James Moir Medal will serve as a testament to her hard work and dedication. Her continued contributions to the field of chemistry are eagerly anticipated, with expectations that she will further both her career and the broader scientific knowledge base.