

Ashton D. Lesiak has been selected as the recipient of two significant research awards. The first award is the 2015 Northeastern Association of Forensic Scientists (NEAFS) Carol De Forest Student Research Grant, a highly competitive award presented to a full time graduate student who demonstrates excellence in Forensic Science. This research grant will fund Ashton's cutting edge research and she will present her findings at the 2016 Annual NEAFS Meeting. The second award is the 2015 Eastern Analytical Symposium (EAS) Graduate Student Award, which is given to a student involved in research in the broad field of analytical chemistry. The recipient must have earned excellent grades and have demonstrated success in approaching and resolving research problems, and disseminating their work to the scientific community. The EAS Graduate Student Award is a national award given to four students each year.

Ashton is from Greenville, South Carolina and received her Bachelor of Science (*magna cum laude*) from Converse College (Spartanburg, SC) in 2011. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Chemistry at the University at Albany under the supervision of Prof. Rabi A. Musah. Ashton is engaged in research on the characterization and classification of forensic botanical evidence using direct analysis in real time mass spectrometry (DART-MS) and with Prof. Musah, she has co-authored seven peer-reviewed publications.