



2011 Undergraduate Student Member Scholarship awarded to

Megan Willis
Vancouver Island University



“I am a fourth year student at Vancouver Island University, and I am just about to complete my B.Sc. with minors in chemistry and mathematics. Early in my education at VIU, I became a research assistant in the Applied Environmental Research Laboratories (AERL). My experiences in the AERL helped me to understand the relevance of chemistry to the world, most specifically to current environmental issues. In short, I became hooked on chemistry. Since then I have spent three summers doing research in the AERL with the help of NSERC. In second year I joined the VIU Chemistry Club, which was launching its Awareness of Climate Change through Education and Research (ACER) initiative to educate students and the general public about the science of climate change and engaging them to become part of the solution; I have been involved in developing and delivering interactive presentations, and demonstrations with ACER. I have continued my involvement with the Chemistry Club, acting as second-year representative, vice-president and currently president to help create a sense of community within the enthusiastic group of chemistry students at VIU. I have helped to establish a volunteer run, drop-in chemistry help center aimed at first and second year students. This September I plan to begin a graduate program in chemistry, and although I have not yet chosen where to begin my graduate studies, I am confident that the chemistry of the environment will continue to play a huge role in my life.”