Rachel Hampton, University of Oregon, for her proposal: *Oxygen Isotope Analysis and U-Th dating of zircons from the Krafla Central Volcano: An insight into the formation of rhyolites in basaltic environments*

I was born and raised in the drop-dead gorgeous mountain town of Telluride Colorado. It was there that I learned to love the world around me and began to question how it worked. This adventure of discovery took me first to the big city of Boston for college. I attended Harvard University, and my journey took an unexpected turn within a week of arriving. After becoming hopelessly lost in the vast Science Center at the heart of the Harvard campus, I stumbled upon an introductory geology course. Little did I know this class would take me down an incredible road in my education, leading me straight to the department of Earth and Planetary Science. Here I learned to love earth science and discovered a passion for research and volcanoes, investigating the ancient volcanoes that lie just outside of downtown Boston. All of this has lead me to the University of Oregon in Eugene to pursue a PhD, working with Professors Ilya Bindeman and Leif Karlstrom to uncover hidden patterns in geochemical data and unravel the complex processes that lie hidden within the magma chambers underneath active volcanoes. In particular I have found an exciting path investigating the occurrence of high silica lavas where we might not otherwise expect them. This has been an incredible journey so far; I look forward to continuing to find puzzling questions about the Earth, and to discovering answers that never cease to surprise us and stretch the limits of what we thought possible.