

The Rachel Carson Medallion Award for Excellence in the Environment

This award—a gold medallion—will be formally presented by the Dean of the College during the Medallion Award Ceremony during Graduation Weekend. The award winner will also be recognized at the Department Graduation Ceremony with a certificate and small gift from the Environmental Faculty and Department Chair.



Purpose: The Rachel Carson Medallion Award is to be granted annually to an exceptional undergraduate student upon completion of their studies in the field of Environmental Science or Environmental Studies.

Criteria: The Rachel Carson Medallion Award will be conferred upon a student completing their major course of studies in Environmental Science or Environmental Studies at the discretion of the faculty of the Department of Geography and the Environmental. It will be bestowed upon an Environmental Science or Studies major who has achieved the highest cumulative GPA in courses that compose his/her major. The award is conferred at the discretion of the Department Chair based on the recommendation of the Environmental Faculty, and after a formal review and vote by the entire Department faculty. The award will not be presented to a student in the Environmental Studies Concentration.

Background: *The Rachel Carson Medallion Award for Excellence in the Environment* honors Rachel Carson (1907-1964), a marine biologist, nature writer, and a founder of the environmental movement in the United States. Born and raised in Pennsylvania, Carson earned an appreciation of the natural world through her early graduate work at Johns Hopkins University and as a biologist with the United States Bureau of Fisheries. Carson authored several books about the ocean during her early career. Carson became concerned with the use of synthetic pesticides, and in 1962 published her best known work, *Silent Spring*. This work was perhaps the seminal publication that greatly increased public awareness of environmental problems, inspiring grassroots environmental activism and the establishment of Earth Day, the Environmental Protection Agency, and other important environmental legislation. Carson received many awards for her writing and activism, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

AWARD WINNERS

2009 Ms. Katherine A. O’Gara



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



Rachel L. Carson Medallion Award for Excellence in the Environment

Rachel L. Carson

Rachel Louise Carson
May 27, 1907 - April 14, 1964

American marine biologist and nature writer whose writings are credited with advancing the global environmental movement.

This medallion award is presented to the graduating Environmental Studies or Science major, upon recommendation of the faculty, who achieves the highest grades and consistently demonstrates distinguished academic achievement throughout their studies at Villanova University.

Ms. Katherine A. O'Gara
Environmental Studies
2009

