



## Victoria Grace Augoustides

**Victoria Grace Augoustides** is the 2022 recipient of the Roger R. and Laura M. Yoerger Preprofessional Engineer of the Year award. She was selected for this award because she is an excellent student and an outstanding leader with a passion and vision for agricultural and biological engineering.

Augoustides is an incoming PhD candidate in the biological and biomedical sciences program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. Augoustides is graduating summa cum laude with her undergraduate degree in biological engineering with a concentration in bioprocess engineering and a minor in biomanufacturing from North Carolina State University (NCSU). Augoustides completed a senior design project in which she designed a novel semi-automated turkey enrichment management system with the goal of improving grower production outcomes.

At NCSU, Augoustides contributed to several undergraduate research projects. Augoustides was selected for the 2020–2021 Research and Education Enhancement Projects (REEP) scholars program. Here, she worked on the Pig and Pines Project, investigating the potential of pine biochar to be used as a biological filter for sustainable purification of swine wastewater in agricultural systems. She investigated the effects of different chemical, biological, and thermal treatments on the surface of pine bark. In addition to the lab work and analysis, Augoustides published a peer-reviewed article regarding this project and presented at 6 conferences, locally and nationally. As a result of her research

in the REEP program, Augoustides delivered a TEDxNCState talk in April 2021. The recording of this talk has been shared widely within the hog farming community

Additionally, Augoustides served as an undergraduate team leader for a veterinary disease modeling project for broiler chickens. On this project, she coordinated the analysis of samples between multiple undergraduate students, data analysis, and communication among the three research mentors. The results from this work are likely to be a foundation for improving the diagnostic technology for this disease.

In addition to her impressive technical undergraduate work, Augoustides has served as the vice president and then president of the Mu chapter of Alpha Epsilon. She also was a leader in the ASABE student chapter, serving as vice president and outreach chair. Augoustides also is a pilot executive board member of the North Carolina Life Sciences Virtual Networking Group, facilitating the conversation between new biological and innovative companies and the Raleigh-Durham area. This led to her internship at Merck in 2021 where she worked on a bladder cancer drug improving company productivity.

