



Office of Academic Affairs

9201 University City Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001  
t/ 704.687.5717 www.uncc.edu

July 9, 2020

Dr. Joel Avrin  
Faculty President  
UNC Charlotte

Dear Joel,

In accordance with the faculty policy concerning award of posthumous degrees, I am forwarding a request from the Graduate School and the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to award a graduate degree at the Fall 2020 commencement ceremony:

**Name:** Marissa S. Styron

**Degree:** Ph.D. in Nanoscale Science

The justification for the awarding of the degree is attached. I endorse this request and ask that it be considered for faculty approval at the next Faculty Executive Committee meeting.

Sincerely,

Joan F. Lorden  
Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

Attachment

cc: Nancy Gutierrez, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Bernadette Donovan-Merkert, Chair, Department of Chemistry  
Christine Reed Davis, Dean of Students  
Jon Reece, University Registrar  
Matt Wyse, Faculty Governance Assistant



# UNC CHARLOTTE

The Graduate School  
Office of the Dean


9201 University City Boulevard  
Charlotte, NC 28223-0001  
704-687-7248

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## MEMORANDUM

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**TO:** Dr. Joan Lorden, Provost and Vice Chancellor

**FROM:** Dr. Tom Reynolds, Dean 

**CC:** Dr. Nancy Gutierrez, Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences  
Dr. Bernadette Donovan-Merkert, Chair, Department of Chemistry  
Dr. Christine Davis, Dean of Students  
Dr. Leslie Zenk, Assistant Provost

**SUBJECT:** Posthumous Degree Request – Marissa S. Styron

**DATE:** July 8, 2020

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The Graduate School, upon the recommendation of the faculty of the Department of Chemistry, requests the award of a posthumous doctoral degree in Nanoscale Science to **Marissa S. Styron** (800710520).

After reviewing her degree audit, it appears Ms. Styron had completed all requirements for the degree with the exception of her dissertation. On this basis, she meets the 2/3 requirement for the degree.

If you have questions or need further information, please let me know.



UNC CHARLOTTE

The University of North Carolina at Charlotte  
9201 University City Blvd, Charlotte, NC 28223-0001

July 7, 2020

Dr. Thomas L. Reynolds  
Associate Provost for Graduate Programs and Dean  
UNC Charlotte

**RE: Posthumous Ph.D. degree in Nanoscale Science for Marissa S. Styron**

Dear Dr. Reynolds:

I am writing to request that Ms. Marissa S. Styron be awarded a Posthumous Ph.D. degree in Nanoscale Science in December 2020. Ms. Styron received her B.S. in Chemistry-Biochemistry *cum laude* from UNC Charlotte in May, 2013. She entered the Nanoscale Science Ph.D. program in August, 2013 as the recipient of a Herschel and Cornelia Everett Foundation First-Year Graduate Fellowship. Ms. Styron had completed nearly all of the requirements for the Ph.D. in Nanoscale Science at the time of her death (July 1, 2020). She was last enrolled in the program in Spring 2020 and was in good academic standing. Her advisor, Dr. Daniel Rabinovich, confirms that Ms. Styron had approximately two weeks of experiments to complete in the lab, and that her written dissertation was 50-60% complete. She was extremely close to finishing her degree.

Please let me know if you need any additional information for this request. Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,

Bernadette T. Donovan-Merkert, Ph.D.  
Professor and Chair of Chemistry  
Director, Nanoscale Science Ph.D. Program

