



proudly presents...



The Thirty Third Annual
Graduate and
Undergraduate
Awards

May 18, 2020



Havemeyer Hall

3000 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
212-854-2202, <https://chem.columbia.edu>

History

The development of chemistry in the United States is tied closely to the development of chemistry at Columbia University. For more than a century, Columbia chemistry faculty have produced breakthroughs in research, trained many of the leading chemists in the country, and led the growth of chemistry as both an academic discipline and a profession.

Columbia has been home to many renowned chemists, among them Nobel Laureates Harold Urey, the discoverer of deuterium, and Edward Kimball, a pioneer in the study of cortical steroids. Louis Hammett, the father of physical organic chemistry, and Victor LaMer, the father of colloid chemistry, were longtime members of the department.

This tradition of excellence continues today. Among our faculty we count many members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences.



Departmental Endowments

ARUN GUTHIKONDA MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Organic Chemistry
2019 Benjamin Ravetz (Rovis Group)
2020 Chengbo Yao (Norton Group)

KATHY CHEN FELLOWSHIP IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Awarded to a rising 5th year graduate student demonstrating excellence in Chemistry Yeongsu Cho (Berkelbach Group)

THE GUTHIKONDA, WALLING, NAKANISHI AND BRESLOW FELLOWSHIP IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Organic Chemistry Yizhuo Yang (Mcdermott Group)

THE GUTHIKONDA, KATZ, TURRO AND DANISHEFSKY FELLOWSHIP IN ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Organic Chemistry Chengming He (Mcdermott Group)

BLANCHE R. & DAVID KASINDORF FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Physical Chemistry Yufeng Liu (Zhu Group)

EDITH & EUGENE BLOUT FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to an exceptional student Jack Weber (Friesner/Reichman Groups)

ALFRED BADER FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Organic Chemistry Tomas Fiala (Sames Group)

COLUMBIA—UPJOHN FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student who exemplifies academic excellence Paul (PJ) Robinson (Reichman Group)

FERGUSON FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Synthetic Drugs/Medicines Wei-Li Lee (Sames Group)

RUTGERS FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating academic excellence Pierre Devlaminck (Friesner Group)

FOURMAN FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Organic Chemistry David Vaccaro (Parkin Group)

TRAUBE FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating outstanding talent in photochemistry Xinwen Liu (Min Group)

STANLEY F. FRIEDMAN FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Chemistry Lichirui Zhang (Friesner Group)

CHARLES CANTOR FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to international student demonstrating excellence in Chemistry Enda Xiao (Marianetti Group)

SUSAN BAHARY FELLOWSHIP

Awarded to a student demonstrating excellence in Biological Chemistry Han Yang (Kaufman Group)

PEGRAM AWARDS

Professor and Dean George Pegram received the second PhD in physics from Columbia University and is perhaps as singularly responsible for physics at Columbia as Chandler is for chemistry. As Chairman of the department for 25 years, and then Dean of the Graduate School, he was responsible for modeling graduate studies as we know them today. He brought Bohr, Einstein, and Fermi to Columbia for the first time in the 1920s. The awards given in his name are for graduate students in their final year, in recognition of their meritorious achievements in chemical research.

The 2020 award recipients are:

Melissa Ashley (Rovis Group)
Tom Fiala (Sames Group)
Hengrui Liu (Stockwell Group)

JACK MILLER AWARDS

Professor Jack Malcolm Miller was a nuclear chemist who greatly influenced the field through his passion for teaching undergraduate and graduate students as well as colleagues. The awards given in his name recognize excellence in teaching by graduate students.

The 2020 award recipients are:

Isaac Hughes (Leighton Group)
Christopher Hwu (Sames Group)
Arden Lee (Cornish Group)
Korak Ray (Gonzalez Group)
David Vaccaro (Parkin Group)

HAMMETT AWARD

Perhaps best known for founding the field of physical organic chemistry, Columbia chemistry Professor Louis Hammett defined a new level of rigor in understanding chemical reactivity. The award given in his name is for the most outstanding Ph.D. student in his/her final year in recognition of excellent fundamental studies in chemical research.

The 2020 award recipient is:

Ben Ravetz (Rovis Group)

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

THE THOMAS J. KATZ PRIZE

Established in 2009 by friends and colleagues of Professor Katz, this prize is awarded to the Columbia College, General Studies, or SEAS student majoring in the chemical sciences who is deemed by the faculty to have a demonstrated outstanding achievement as a scholar and as a researcher.

Kevin Qian

THE RICHARD BERSOHN PRIZE

Established in 2009 by Professor Louis Brus, who was a student of Professor Bersohn, this prize is awarded to the Columbia College, General Studies, or SEAS student majoring in the chemical sciences who is deemed by the faculty to have demonstrated outstanding achievement as a scholar and as a researcher.

Matthew Bowers

UNDERGRADUATE AWARDS

(Continued)

THE BRIAN BENT AWARD

The Bent Award is awarded to the most outstanding undergraduate teaching assistant. This award was established in the memory of former Chemistry faculty member, and outstanding surface scientist, Brian E. Bent, after his unexpected passing in 1996 at age 35, to honor his passion for teaching.

Caleb Cook
Kevin Qian

THE CHANDLER SOCIETY AWARD

Awarded to the undergraduate student demonstrating the most outstanding performance and dedication to the spirit of the Chandler Society, a club run by undergraduates for the purpose of promoting enjoyment and knowledge of science, and in particular chemistry. The club is named in honor of Charles Frederick Chandler, who helped found the School of Mines at Columbia, the predecessor of our Chemistry Department, and greatly influenced chemical research and the chemical industry.

Brianna Alico

