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When I was hired as Department Chair in July of 2016, I was charged with building a world-class Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Northern Illinois University. My first goals were (1) to hire multiple faculty members to expand our research portfolio and free our 13 current faculty members from onerous teaching and service responsibilities and (2) to upgrade departmental instrumentation to give faculty, students, and staff the tools they need to be successful. I am pleased to report substantial progress in both areas. First, we welcomed Irina Nesterova, Ph.D. to the department in August as a new tenure-track assistant professor. Nesterova comes to us from her position as a research scientist at Louisiana State University. She has written a short description of her background and research interests in this issue of *The Northern Chemist*. Next, Yingwen Cheng, Ph.D. joined us as a tenure-track Assistant Professor on January 1, 2018. Cheng researched new battery materials at Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Finally, Tao Li, Ph.D. became the department's first joint hire with Argonne National Laboratory when he joined us as a tenure-track Assistant Professor on January 3, 2018. Combined with our existing faculty, these new hires will give us a core of researchers interested in materials for photovoltaic, catalytic, sensing, and energy applications. My thanks go out to last year's search committee, chaired by Elizabeth Gaillard, Ph.D., for the work they did to help bring these fine young scientists to NIU. Watch this space for news of future faculty hires!



Chair Ralph A. Wheeler

Message from the Chair

In addition to the new faculty hires, our instrumentation has been substantially upgraded. By the time you read this, we will have spent nearly \$200,000 to upgrade instrumentation in our teaching labs and Victor Ryzhov, Ph.D. will have purchased a new mass spectrometer, funded by his \$250,000 grant from the NSF's Major Research Instrumentation program. This would not have been possible without years of hard work by Gaillard, Ryzhov, and many others to negotiate a memo of understanding with Shimadzu Scientific Instruments. This agreement gives NIU deep discounts on Shimadzu instruments and maintenance in exchange for showcasing their instruments regionally (and simultaneously building relationships across the region!).

While faculty hiring and improved instrumentation has been a primary focus during my time at NIU, it has not been the department's only concern. In 2017, Jim Horn, Ph.D. and I completed our first summer Research Experience for Undergraduates, funded by our three-year NSF grant, and we are currently searching for ways to expand the program to fund our own NIU students. Among the many awards earned by students and faculty are Drew Donnally's First-Alternate Lincoln Laureate Award (following on Rebecca Rasmussen's Lincoln Laureate Award in 2017 as the top student at NIU), the Presidential Professorship awarded to Douglas A. Klumpp, Ph.D. and the prestigious Mahatma Ghandi Pravasi Samman Award presented to Narayan Hosmane, Ph.D., recognizing him as one of India's most accomplished expatriots working in any field!

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the many friends of the department who provide generous donations of their time, talent, and financial resources to help the department move forward. We all have a difficult, but enormously important task ahead of us and your generosity has supported work we could not otherwise undertake, including funding most of our student scholarships. You can find our scholarship winners and some of our important initiatives described in the following pages.



Summer 2017 Research Experience for Undergraduates  
Left to Right: Ralph A. Wheeler, Ph.D.; Lauren Johnson; Megan Prien; Samuel Kouatchew; Heather Ruiz; Haley Tadd; Reese Richardson; James Jagusch; Savannah Benjamin; James R. Horn, Ph.D.



Share your news with friends and classmates! To let us know where you are and what you're doing, please email us at [northernchemist@niu.edu](mailto:northernchemist@niu.edu), or write us at:

Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Northern Illinois University  
1425 W. Lincoln Hwy.  
DeKalb, IL 60115-2828

**Jason Briski** (B.S., '05) has completed coursework to earn a professional educator's license from Trinity Christian College after working for years in different companies as a chemist. In August 2017 he joined the faculty of Saint Edwards Central Catholic High School in Elgin, IL as a chemistry teacher, and has really enjoyed working with kids and teaching chemistry to the next generation.

**Don Charleston** (B.S., '69) retired in April of 2008 as project team leader and six sigma black belt for electrical wiring of Caterpillar on-highway, machine, and industrial engines. Ann (BS, '67, MS, '81) is a retired R.N. from the McLean County Health Department. Don worked in the field of electroplating several years before joining Caterpillar as an engine designer.

**Brad Chazotte** (Ph.D., '81) retired in May of 2017 after 35 years in academia, the first 17 years in the School of Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the last 18 years in the College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences at Campbell University. He started his research on mitochondria for his Ph.D. with Garrett Vanderkooi at NIU, investigating local anesthetic effects on mitochondrial electron transport. His UNC years focused primarily on research papers, book chapters and travel to national and international meetings. His years at Campbell's College of Pharmacy and Health Science focused primarily on teaching biochemistry to Pharm.D. students and molecular biology to undergraduates, plus courses with M.S. students. Nancy, his wife, plans

to retire from UNC Hospitals. Their daughter, Bryanna, is continuing at Elon University as a junior pursuing a degree in biology and will likely minor in chemistry and neuroscience with an interest in medicine. They continue to reside at their home of 27 years in Chapel Hill, NC.

**Robert K. Gabel** (B.S., '66) retired in 2017 after 50 years as a chemist in oil and gas production operations. His last position was Senior Technical Advisor in Ecolab's Energy Services division.

**Kevin Gofron** (B.S., '89, M.B.A. '92) is now a Global Business Development Manager for Avery Dennison Corporation. His role consists of integrating label innovation into the marketplace, as well as discovering innovations to drive the new product pipeline. "My background in chemistry, especially organic chemistry, is a definite advantage when talking to my technical customer base. It truly gives me an advantage over my competition."

**Silvano Grosso** (M.S., '74) is now an adjunct instructor of chemistry and math

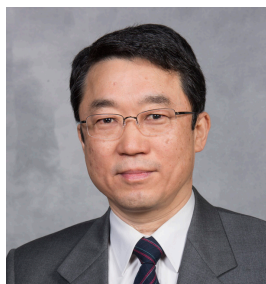
tutor at Wharton County Junior College in Richmond, Texas. He is enjoying his partial retirement and travels often in the USA and Europe. "Best wishes to all at NIU. Fond memories..."

**Dave Kuntz** (M.S., '13) now works as a Chemometric Scientist for Vaporsens, a startup at the University of Utah which specializes in the forensic detection of chemicals in gases.

**John T. Norton** (B.S., '03) has been working on a cancer drug development company that he co-founded, working as an oncology scientist for a large pharmaceutical company, and most recently serving as Chief Scientific Officer for a not-for-profit pharmaceutical company that he co-founded.

**Larry Watkins** (B.S., '73) is happy to report that he is "still having fun and making lots of \$ at 70" in the oil industry as technical advisor to his company for petroleum refining, ASTM, EPA and SQA. He has retired as chief chemist for BP, and is "glad I chose NIU...best decision I ever made next to marrying Carol 46 years ago!!!"

## Staff Spotlight: Taesam Kim



Research technologist manager **Taesam Kim** began his NIU career in 1997 by joining the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Prior to NIU, Taesam worked in the Geological Institute of Material and Resources in Korea as a staff scientist in their Analytical Certification Lab.

Taesam is primarily responsible for the department's analytical laboratory, which houses both a 300Mhz and 500Mhz NMR, along with other valuable and important instrumentation. The analytical laboratory

services both departmental research and teaching efforts. He both ensures the lab's continued safe operation and provides training. Additionally, he doubles as an adjunct professor for courses in analytical chemistry as needed, along with being a faculty scholar.

He likes living in DeKalb with his wife Sarah and two daughters Suzie and Monica. When not at work, Taesam enjoys working on for-fun engineering projects that require in-depth knowledge of programming and electronics at a high level but result in something recreational, such as toy cars and holiday-related displays. He also is part of a service initiative through DeKalb Library that helps individuals file their tax returns each spring. He also enjoys playing Korean drums and Jango.

## The Cutting Edge of Safety

In 2017, Northern Illinois University received the Campus Safety, Health, and Environmental Management Association (CSHEMA) Innovation Award of Honor, which is their top level innovation award.

The CSHEMA Innovation Award seeks to honor the innovative achievements of higher education institutions in three categories: process improvement, resource enhancement, and safety culture. Only ten such awards were given nationally that year.



*Andy Small, Michele Crase, Jim Gable, Gary Baker, Ph.D.  
CSHEMA Innovation Award: Safety Culture*

The safety culture award recognizes institutional practices of faculty, staff, and students who are prompting a culture of safety. Factors for consideration included how safety was incorporated into the project/program, observable and quantifiable changes in the culture, learning experiences that could be transferred to other institutions and help facilitate others in this initiative, the project's ability to improve health and safety concerns, the scope of the project, cost to implement, method of implementation, and cost effectiveness.

CSHEMA evaluated NIU's specific safety project, which was the creation of a new course focusing on addressing real world safety issues that occur in industry.

The Director of Graduate Studies and members of the laboratory safety team took turns teaching the course. Topics included the history of safety culture in industry, personal protective equipment, development of a safety culture, working with chemicals, chemical fume hoods, EPA regulations, biosafety risks, and radiation safety concerns. The class also visited clinical laboratories and had weeks dedicated to group discussions.

Guest lecturers from industry also came to speak, including representatives from BP Amoco and Argonne, two companies that frequently hire NIU's graduates. Industry speakers were more than happy to assist when asked. They made it clear they appreciate graduates who have a background in safety.

Twenty-five students enrolled in the successful pilot course; the reviews and feedback were mainly positive, with students feeling like they learned something new and were more equipped to enter the work force.

## Nesterova Joins Chemistry Faculty



The Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry welcomes Irina Nesterova, Ph.D., the first new faculty member joining the department as part of a multi-year strategic hiring plan to grow and develop the department into a world-class leader in teaching and research.

Nesterova comes from the Department of Chemistry of Louisiana State University where she worked in different areas of analytical and bioanalytical research. As part of her postdoctoral studies with Professor Steven Soper, Ph.D. (now at the University of Kansas), she worked on the development of new near-IR fluorophores as agents for photodynamic therapy and bioanalytical applications. Also, she was involved in the development of integrated microfluidic systems for the capture of circulating tumor cells for DNA sequencing.

At present, her independent research program evolves around the design of materials with defined properties having potential utility in areas of analytical chemistry. This includes cellular imaging, DNA sequencing, biomarker detection and others. The materials are based on a DNA backbone that makes them very well suited for bioanalytical applications. Her group utilizes a variety of spectroscopic (fluorescence, UV-vis absorption) and separation techniques (electrophoresis, chromatography), microscopy and other methods to study and characterize the sensing systems.

Nesterova has taught Instrumental Analytical Chemistry and General Chemistry courses at multiple institutions. Prior to her academic career Nesterova worked in analytical R&D in Covance Laboratory (Madison, WI), PPD Development (Middleton, WI), and Acusphere (Watertown, MA).

She was born in the Ural mountains region of Russia and immigrated to the U.S. in 1998. She is married and has two children. When she has the chance, she likes to spend time with her family enjoying outdoor activities. She is a fan of cross-country skiing and, after several years in the deep South, is looking forward to the real winters and snow that northern Illinoisians experience.

## Klumpp Lands Presidential Professorship

Douglas A. Klumpp, Ph.D., is one of the recipients of a Presidential Research, Scholarship and Artistry Professorship, NIU's top recognition for outstanding research and artistry. This award, which has been given out annually since 1982, not only recognizes and honors past excellence, but provides tangible support for continuing and future efforts.

Presidential Research, Scholarship and Artistry Professors (PRSAPs) are nominated by a committee and appointed by NIU's president. This designation is quite competitive, as only three faculty members from the entire NIU faculty body receive this award annually.

Award winners receive special financial support of their research for four years, after which they carry the title of Distinguished Research Professor. As a recipient, Klumpp has received a support budget and some release from teaching and service duties starting in fall 2017, to help free up time for further research activity. He brings the tenth presidential professorship to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, joining the ranks of:

James E. Erman, Distinguished Research Professor

Elizabeth R. Gaillard, Distinguished Research Professor

Arnold E. Hampel, Distinguished Research Professor

Narayan S. Hosmane, Distinguished Research Professor

Dennis N. Kevill, Distinguished Research Professor

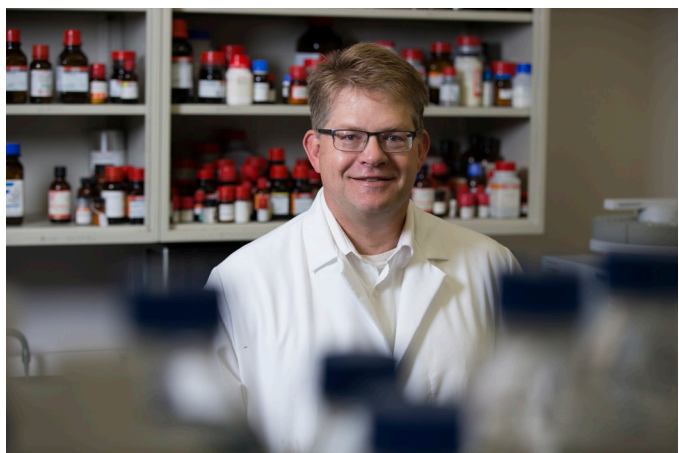
Chhiu-Tsu Lin, Distinguished Teaching Professor and Distinguished Research Professor

John L.A. Mitchell, Distinguished Research Professor

Robin D. Rogers, Distinguished Research Professor

Charles W. Spangler, Distinguished Research Professor

Klumpp made a few stops before joining NIU in 2003, but his biggest splash in the world of chemistry research has come as a Huskie.



*Douglas A. Klumpp, Ph.D.*

As a prolific author of academic and scientific papers which have been cited around the world, Klumpp has also raised nearly \$2 million in external funding for research. He points out his success rate in the competitive world of federal funding outpaces the typical average by a notable margin.

After starting his academic career at California Polytechnic University he was drawn to the opportunity at NIU, where family and friends had attended. He also knew it would be good to work with top-level chemistry students.

"If you're really serious about research, you need to work with graduate students," Klumpp said. "I've been really fortunate to have some superstar students at the graduate and undergraduate level."

His research has covered a lot of ground, especially within the realm of organic chemistry. He's explored ways to make pharmaceuticals more affordable and their chemical process more environmentally friendly. Klumpp has also looked into bio-renewable chemistry to prepare fuels and commodity chemicals.

Klumpp praised his students' success in publishing research papers within scientific journals, something that arose out of good lab work, high-level skills and enthusiasm for their work. His teams have even discovered new chemistry through "happy accidents" – unplanned results. The university also benefits from an environment where students have access to high-caliber research opportunities.

"Research experience and strong publication records really help students get jobs," he offered.

To pass through these qualifications and receive this prestigious Presidential Professorship further validates Klumpp's prominence in the scientific community, and solidifies the fact that not only does he meet these qualifications, but he does so to a greater extent than most if not all of the other applicants, as selections are to be made solely on the basis of scholarly or artistic credentials, with input from sources of expertise both inside and outside of NIU.

Yes, our faculty are involved in cutting-edge research in exciting areas such as eye health, nanomaterials, cancer treatment, and energy storage. Research is an interesting career – one can work on a large number of projects, and come up with very little, or one can unexpectedly discover something revolutionary, seemingly by accident. Even so, a full fifth of the active faculty in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry have now received Presidential Professorships, so it's more than chance.

The building blocks are in place for a breakthrough; and even though exactly what that might be is not yet clear, one thing certainly is – this is a department to keep your eye on. Even though we're learning today, you can fully expect us to be leading tomorrow.

## Spring 2017 Awards Banquet

ACS Introductory Chemistry Award..... Victoria Kwaben (Highest Honor),  
..... Alexandra Garcia and Paul Nadela

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award Honorable Mention

I Younan An	Alexander Litgen	Ania Waclawiak
Collin Andrews	Samantha Longfield	Natalie Yass
Dayne Coveyou	Paula Moraga	
Benjamin Lee	Jonathan Thomas	

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award ..... Mark Banovetz

Outstanding Sophomore Award ..... Thimoro Cheng

Outstanding Junior Award..... Isabelle Ylo

Undergraduate ACS Award in Analytical Chemistry..... Zane LaCasse

Undergraduate ACS Award in Inorganic Chemistry ..... Lauren Zuidema

Undergraduate ACS Award in Organic Chemistry..... Megan Decker

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

Undergraduate Scholarship ..... Marina Galluzzo

Chemistry Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship..... Eulalio Valadez Jr.

American Institute of Chemists Award..... Eulalio Valadez Jr.

Outstanding Senior Award ..... Rebecca Rasmussen

Lincoln Academy of Illinois NIU Student Laureate Award..... Rebecca Rasmussen

Rock River ACS Undergraduate Research Award..... Yana Skrypai

NIU Chemistry Club Undergraduate Research Award..... Lucas Kuzmanic

John and Lili La Tourette Student Research Award..... Lucas Kuzmanic  
and Roxana Moraga

Van Acker-Duminy-Kovarik Endowed Scholarship ..... Samantha Bacchi

Rosalie Reynolds Endowed Memorial Scholarship ..... Andrew Arroyo

Dean's Award..... Marina Galluzzo

Edwin Hyland Endowed Memorial Scholarship ..... Devon Boland

NIU Chemistry Club Endowed Edwards-Hyland Award ..... Devon Boland

Winifred Halsey Scholarship..... Emily Fiala

Jon Carnahan Chemistry Scholarship ..... Allison Carr

2017-18 Rhoten A. Smith Assistantship ..... Andrew Feliciano, Dominic Rebollar  
and Michael Vega

Kevin Cull Memorial Teaching Award ..... Chanté Muller and Sami Varjosaaari

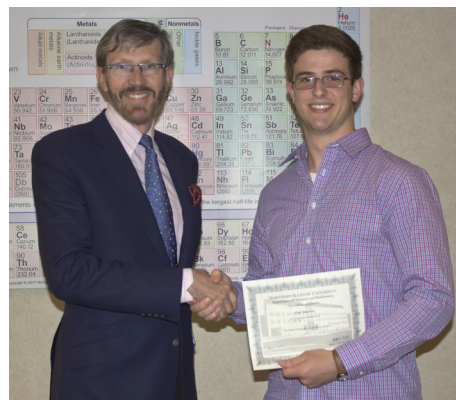
Great Journeys Assistantship ..... Allison Carr and Jue Gong

John D. Graham Endowed Scholarship..... Jue Gong

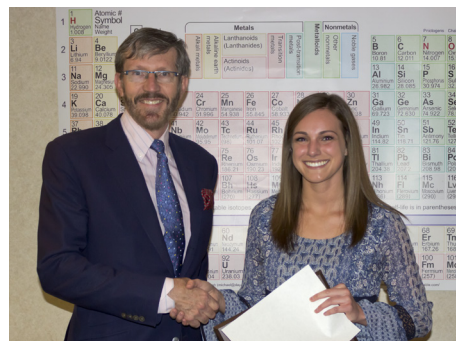
2016-17 Exemplary Student Teacher Award..... Rachel Fouts

2017 Outstanding Graduate Student Award..... Rachel Fouts and Makafui Gasonoo

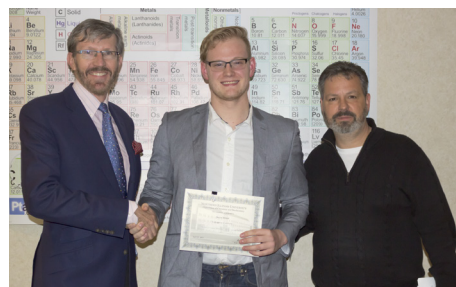
Visit [www.facebook.com/niuchembio](http://www.facebook.com/niuchembio) to find more awards banquet photos from the past, the present and the future.



*Mark Banovetz  
Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award  
(with Ralph A. Wheeler)*



*Lauren Zuidema  
Undergraduate ACS Award in Inorganic Chemistry  
(with Ralph A. Wheeler)*



*Devon Boland  
Edwin Hyland Endowed Memorial Scholarship  
(with Ralph A. Wheeler and Oliver Hofstetter, Ph.D.)*



*Allison Carr  
Jon Carnahan Chemistry Scholarship  
(with Patti Carnahan and family)*

**Thank you alumni and friends!** The faculty, staff and students of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry wish to express our appreciation for your support and generosity.

We are proud to acknowledge gifts from the following alumni and friends during the 2016 calendar year. Organizations and companies are listed below in *italics*.

#### Michael Faraday Society (\$1,000 and above)

Michael (B.S., '73) and Norma Cornell; David S. Ballantine and Diane R. DeMers; Lidia B. Vitello and James E. Erman; Ronald (M.S., '69; Ph.D., '72) and Elizabeth Hennis; Narayan and Sumathy Hosmane; Thor (B.S., '65; Ph.D., '72) and Darlene Jondahl; Dennis N. Kevill; William (B.S., '77; B.S., '77; M.S., '78) and Arlene Mickols; Carol E. Rolf (M.S.Ed., '75); Desheng Xu (M.S., '02) and Ling Bei (Ph.D. '04); Thomas M. Zydowsky (B.S., '75; M.S., '78); *American Chemical Society NIU Chemistry Club*

#### Marie Curie Circle (\$250–\$999)

Robert M. Arduini (B.S., '85); David and Suzy Changnon; Michele Zavos and Ellen Cull; John Davison (B.S., '58); John (B.S.Ed., '51; M.S.Ed., '53) and Gilda Ferrara; Glenn (B.S., '56) and Nancy Green; Michael (B.S., '75) and Mary Holland; Isabelle (B.S., '80; M.S.Ed., '87; M.S.Ed., '07) and Gary Kovarik; Gale (B.S., '72) and Kris (B.S. '73) Moline; Naw May Pearl (Ph.D., '07) and Gregory Cartee; Richard V. Snyder (B.S., '68); Harold J. Vickery (B.S., '73); Gregory (Ph.D. '91) and Tammy (B.S., '89) Webster; Barry (B.S., '88) and Blenda Williams; *Kishwaukee Valley Storm*

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Olujide (Ph.D., '97) and Olusola Akinbo; Thomas (B.S., '90) and Kimberly Anderson; Barrie and Sharon Bode; Jill (B.A. '79; M.A. '81) and Kenneth Boersma; Patrick J. Camodeca (B.S., '83); Daniel L. Carnahan; Brad (Ph.D., '81) and Nancy Chazotte; Peter E. Collins (B.S., '12); Jeremy M. Costello (B.S., '13); Charles (B.S., '71; Ph.D., '75) and Barbara (B.S.Ed. '70; M.A. '76) Degenhardt; Willard T. Engelskirchen (B.S., '64) and Anne L. Pilert; Robert (M.S., '68) and Trudy Feldt; Robert S. Gronke (B.S., '82); Charmaine (M.A. '12) and John Hantsch; Robert V. Kennedy, Jr. (B.S., '67) and Marilyn Slovak; Kaho Kwok (Ph.D., '07); Marc (B.S. '70) and Charlene (B.A., '70) Longino; Stanley K. Lott (B.S., '63; M.S., '67); Vladimir A. Makarov (M.S., '94) and Tatiana Khmelevskaia; Eric (B.S., '01) and Laura Mathey; Joann McGhee; Ronald and Diane Moran; Lawrence (B.S. '61) and Gracie (B.S.Ed., '86) Osborne; Gary and Patti Pastori; Robert (B.S., '61) and Nancy Rathmann; Robert (B.S. '81) and Sue (B.S., '81) Ross; Lilia (B.S., '04; M.S., '06) and Alex Rousseva; Michelle (B.S., '89; M.S., '92) and David Sachtleben; Shashikant C. Shah (M.S., '67);

Robert Singer, Jr. (B.S. '69) and Linda Singer (B.S., '70); Eliot M. Slovin (B.S., '72) and Lynn Milstone; Dee (B.S. '71) and Mary (B.S., '71) Stumphy; Laura L. Unger (B.S., '76); Carl and Paula Von Ende; Carole S. Weatherman; Paul (B.S., '05) and Virginia Weber; Mary C. Whitten (Ph.D., '99); Jerre (B.S., '70) and Robin Yeager; Michael and Donna Zang; Tun-Jen Hsiao (Ph.D. '13) and Xiaoqiao Zeng (Ph.D., '12); *PJ's Courthouse Tavern; Silicon Valley Community Foundation*

#### Kekulé Ring (\$50–\$99)

Nancy Lee (B.S., '71) and Richard Arntzen; Benjamin (B.S., '78) and Sandra Athneil; Neil W. Blackstone and Anne T. Berg; Mary (B.S., '75) and John Bonk; Dan (Ed.D., '87) and Brenda Brunworth; Gary C. Burns (M.A., '76); Jeffrey (M.S., '98) and Angela Carver; Christopher W. Connell (B.S., '03); Catherine W. Doederlein (B.A., '00; M.A., '02); Steven and Sally Estes; Gary and Jeanette Freeman; Shannon (B.S., '95; M.S., '00) and Jeff Gates; John R. Grawe (B.S., '67); Wendy (B.S.Ed., '99) and Glenn Gustafson; Donna R. Harvey; Carol and Warren Holdridge; Warren (M.S.Ed., '49) and Doris (B.S.Ed. '51) Jenks; Cheryl J. Maness (B.S.Ed., '74; M.S.Ed., '99); Brad and Tina McGehee; Reif and Stacey Palmer; Heather E. Price (B.S., '89); Edward (B.S., '65) and Debra Rosenow; Robert Ross and Josiane R. Horak; Morley and Maureen Russell; Michael (B.S., '82) and Sandra Schick; David (B.S., '77) and Laura Simnick; Mervin Zeigler, Jr. (B.S., '60) and Sandra Zeigler; *Eli Lilly and Company Foundation, Inc.*

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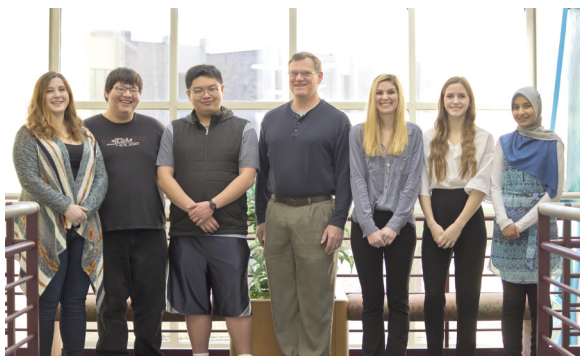
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*Drew Donnally, chemistry major and first finalist for Lincoln Laureate in 2017*



*Timothy Hagen, Ph.D. (center) and members of his undergraduate research team.*



*Ashley De Lio, 2018 Ph.D. graduate, mentoring an undergraduate student*

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## Top Scholars of 2017

Each spring, our department holds an annual Chemistry Club Awards Banquet, recognizing our top chemistry students for their academic achievement, service and leadership. Thanks to the generosity of our alumni and friends, many student awards are presented, including the following endowed scholarships:

The **Chemistry Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship (CAUS)** is awarded to a continuing undergraduate based on overall academic excellence. The 2017 recipient is *Eulalio Valadez Jr.*

The **Kevin Cull Memorial Teaching Awards** are presented to outstanding graduate teaching assistants at all levels of instruction. The 2017 recipients are *Jeremy Troxell* and *Ashley De Lio*.

The **NIU Chemistry Club Edwards-Hyland Award** is given to a junior who is an active member of the Chemistry Club. The 2017 recipient is *Marina Galluzzo*.

The **John D. Graham Scholarship** is given to a graduate student based upon scholarship, including both academic and research achievements. The 2017 recipient is *Michael Lesslie*.

The **Rosalie Reynolds Memorial Teaching Scholarship** is given to a junior or senior based on overall grade point average and intention to pursue a career in teaching. The 2017 recipient is *Rachel Fouts*.

The **Van Acker-Duminy-Kovarik Scholarship** is awarded to an incoming undergraduate or graduate student with preference given to students planning to study inorganic chemistry and/or pursue a career in teaching. The 2017 recipient is *Cameron Thomas*.

For a complete listing of awards and recipients from 2017, see page 5.