

A Chemistry Celebration The University of Iowa 2026

IOWA

Event Schedule

5:00 PM - Reception & Poster session

6:00 PM - Ceremony

- **Welcome – Prof. Renée Cole (DEO)**
- **Undergraduate Awards – Prof. Mona Maalouf**
- **Chemistry & Sustainability Study Abroad- Prof. Adam Brummett**
- **Graduate Awards – Prof. Scott Shaw**
- **CGSA Awards – Abby Carlin & Nathan Loutsch**
- **Safety Awards- Emma Markun & Nicole Shapiro**
- **Closing remarks – Prof. Renée Cole**

Welcome to the Annual Chemistry Appreciation and Awards Night. This event is designed to recognize the hard work and achievements of the graduate and undergraduate students of the Department of Chemistry at the University of Iowa.

Undergraduate Awards & Recognition

Department Awards

Donald J. Burton & Margaret A. Burton Scholarship

- Bailey Wolf

E. David Cater Scholarship

- Abdul Quraishi

Russell K. Simms Scholarship

- Marissa Majewski
- Parker Nicks

Kenneth Sando Scholarship

- Ford Denham

Leeper Chemistry Alumni Awards

Senior Recipient

- Ben Mullen
- Michael Lauer

Junior Recipient

- Sophia Avila
- Allison Halligan

Sophomore Recipient

- Zach Smith

Leeper CRC Freshman Chemistry Award

- Evelyn Norcross
- Sydney Stringer

Leeper American Institute of Chemists Award

- Charlie Ohl

CSF Merck Index Award

- Cole Johnson

CSF Viksins, Harris, & Pady's Poster Award

- Abdul Quraishi
- Marissa Majewski
- Andrew Geiger
- Parker Nicks
- Bailey Wolf

ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry Award

- Conner Hammons

ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry Award

- Ben Mullen

ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Award

- Laynie Walberg

ACS Division of Physical Chemistry Award

- Luke Wedemeyer

Richard J Sundberg Award

- Russell Miller

George E. Inglett Scholarship Fund

- Ava Schaldecker
- Ben Troester

Summer Undergraduate Research Award

- Kara Kueper

Chemistry & Sustainability Student Abroad Scholarship

- Andrew Geiger
- Parker Nicks

B.S. and B.A. Graduates

Fall 2025: **BS**: Gabriel Livermore, Amy Millard#, Amelia Short^

BA: Lindsay Ginger

Spring 2026: **BS**: Nadia Arsenijevic#, Kyle Delaney, Maximilian Duffy, Conner Hammons^, Trinity Janis, Thomas Kim, Michael Lauer, Ben Mullen^, Uyen Ngoc Nha Nguyen, Donald Roberts, Tayla Stocker-Davis, Nathan Yanacheak

BA: Katherine Anthofer, Yadiel Berhanu#, Monserrath Borja Bustamante, Katharine Easter#, Sophia Heller^, Aiden Kemmann, Shu-Chi Lin, Andy Luu, Daniel Martinez, Ariana Neziroski^, Skyler Nolte, Nicholas Post^, Abdul Quraishi^, Ella Schlueter, Jacob Shaw, Jessica Singh, Maryam Smith, Andrew Sullivan, Tyler Timmerman, Emily Veksler^, Laynie Walberg, Leo Xiao

#High Distinction, ^Distinction

Graduate Student Awards & Recognition

Department Awards

A. Lynn Anderson Award for Research Excellence

- To be announced

Kathryn K. & James D. Steele Scholarship

- Ben Carvell (Leddy/Shaw)
- Sarah Hill (Daly/Shaw)

University Recognition

Ballard and Seashore Fellowship

- Spring 2026: Akalanka Ekanayake (Tivanski), Caleb DeWitt (Bhattacharjee), Jeewani Meepage (Stone), Vidumini Samarasiri (Forbes)
- Fall 2025: Primadi Subintoro (Carter), Shanari Wickremasinghage (Bowden)

Graduate College Post-Comprehensive Research Fellowship

- Spring 2026: Dishan Das (Margulis), Austin Heidbreder (Bhattacharjee)
- Fall 2025: Peter Zacher (Daly)

CLAS Dissertation Writing Fellowship

- Summer-Fall 2025: Harindu Rajapaksha (Forbes/Mason)

CLAS Outstanding Teaching Assistant

- Janeshta Fernando (Stone)
- Kaitlin Krivak (Department of Physics)
- Beau Leavenworth (Gerstner)
- Aiman Shahbaz (Carter)
- Josie Welker (Stone)

Graduate College Summer (2026) Fellowship

- Thumini Dias (Tivanski)
- Saurav Katuwal (Bowden)
- Sabina Kumi (Friestad)
- Matteo Mannara (Martin)
- Hung Nguyen (Margulis)
- Ebuka Onyeyilim (Williams)
- Buddhima Pathiraja Arachchillage (Gillan)
- Chamini Perera (Shaw)
- Aiman Shahbaz (Carter)
- Melissa Siewert (Daly)

Hancher-Finkbine Medallion

- Akalanka Ekanayake (Tivanski)

UI 1st Gen Student Achievement Award

- Akalanka Ekanayake (Tivanski)

OVPR Graduate Research Excellence Award, Physical Sciences

- Harindu Rajapaksha (Forbes/Mason)

OVPR Innovations in Safety Award

- Emma Markun (Forbes)

OVPR EHS Excellence in Safety - Individual Recognition

- Colleen Lasar (Shaw)

UI Division of Student Life MISSE Excellence in Perseverance Award

- Akalanka Ekanayake (Tivanski)

External Recognition

ACS Graduate Student & Postdoc Scholars Program: Recognition of Excellence for Leadership in Mentoring

- Caleb DeWitt (Bhattacharjee)

ACS Division of Inorganic Chemistry (Division of Inorganic Chemistry) Travel Award

- Setayesh Parsapour (Daly/Shaw), Ecem Celik (Carter/Forbes)

Association of Public Health Labs, Postdoc Fellowship, UI State Hygienic Lab

- Josie Welker (Stone)

2026 Seaborg Institute Graduate Research Fellowship- Los Alamos National Lab

- Nick Dahlen (Forbes)

2026 Seaborg Distinguished Postdoc Fellowship, Idaho National Lab

- Harindu Rajapaksha (Forbes)

2025-2026 M.S. Graduates & Degrees Received

Fall 2025: Ecem Celik Duran*, Dishan Das*, Akalanka Ekanayake*, Vishuka Heenatigala Pathiranage*, Aiman Shahbaz*, Shanari Wickremasinghage*, Nadeeshan Wijesundara*, Kaitlin Krivak, Sreya Roy

Spring 2026: Ayomide Ajewole*, Rachael Bertolino*, Emmanuel Bonsu*, Lillie Chudacoff*, Dulanji Dharmagunawardhane*, Thumini Dias*, George Donkor-Gyami*, Khadijah Ishola*, Mariam Okunade*, Buddhima Pathiraja Arachchillage*, Clarence Peiris*, Toyin Sunday*, Andrei Padeanu, David Pille

* *en passant*

** *with thesis*

2025-2026 Ph.D. Graduates

Summer 2025: Andrew Kreps, Brett Lottes, Hayley Petras

Fall 2025: Andrej Corkovic, Theodora Leventis, Ashley Schneider, Primadi Subintoro

Spring 2026: Bichitra Borah, Akalanka Ekanayake, Tess Feldman, Ashanthi Katuwana Arachchige, Colleen Lasar, Harindu Rajapaksha, Vidumini Samarasiri, Sarah Scherrer, Josie Welker, Shanari Wickremasinghage, Mikayla Wymore

CGSA Peer Awards

- To be announced

Safety Awards

- To be announced

The Graduating class of 2026 recognizes these UI faculty and staff members for making a positive difference in their lives during their time at the University of Iowa. President Barbara Wilson, Executive Vice President and Provost Kevin Kregel, and Vice President for Student Life Sarah Hansen join in thanking all of the valuable faculty and staff members who work every day to make a difference for our students. And congratulations to the class of 2025!

Faculty:

Ned Bowden

Adam Brummett

Chris Cheatum

Dave Cwiertny

Scott Daly

Tori Forbes

Greg Friestad

Lei Geng

Ed Gillan

Johna Leddy

Mona Maalouf

Scott Shaw

Manisha Skaria

Betsy Stone

Amy Strathman

Bess Vlasisavljevich

Staff:

Charity Bolden

Sarah DiLorenzo

Students:

Shawn Eisenberg

Names were collected through the UI Senior Exit Survey, which all undergraduates are invited to complete at the time they file to graduate. Names in bold were mentioned more than 5 times.