NIU remembers Jon Carnahan, longtime NIU chemistry chair

Longtime NIU chemistry chair Jon Carnahan died Wednesday, July 6, 2016, at his home in Sycamore. He was 60. A well-loved fixture, Carnahan worked in the NIU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for 33 years and had served as department chair since 2006.

His passion was working with students. He served as research adviser for 22 Doctor of Philosophy graduates, 10 Master of Science graduates and countless past undergraduate students. His service extended to numerous departmental and university committees. He was the author of more than 60 published papers, delivered more than 100 presentations at national and international meetings and held one patent.

Carnahan had just entered a new phase in his life as a retiree. He was looking forward to making spontaneous road trips with his wife, Patti; spending time on the golf course; and hosting the countless friends and family that filled his life with so much happiness. He also eagerly anticipated the arrival of his first grandchild from daughter Betsy, who works in admissions at NIU; daughter Kelsey’s nuptials to Kai; and tropical vacations.

He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Southern Illinois University (1978, 1980) and received his Ph.D. from the University of Cincinnati in 1983. Professional memberships and activities included the NIU Chemistry Club, the American Chemical Society, the past president of the Society for Applied Spectroscopy, Sigma Xi and the Federation of Analytical Chemistry and Spectroscopy Societies (FACSS). The FACSS honored him in 2011 with a distinguished service award for his contributions to the field.

Services were officiated by Elder Roger Hintzsche at the Butala Funeral Home and Crematory in Sycamore, on July 11, 2016.

In lieu of flowers, memorials will be used for establishing the Jon Carnahan Memorial Scholarship in Analytical Chemistry.

Source: NIU Today 07/07/16
Charles A. Achilles (B.S., ’68) just marked his third year of retirement as Chief Legislative and Research Officer, from the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM). He also completed 17 years (during his last years with IREM) of similar work, under contract, for CCIM Institute. In retirement, he has enjoyed travel with his wife Ann, time with his grandchildren, sailing and Huskie football and men’s basketball games.

Malcolm D’Souza (M.S., ’89; Ph.D., ’92) was selected as the 2016 IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence Mentoring Awardee. That same year, he received the Delaware Bio Award “Higher Education Educator of the Year” for his contributions to Delaware’s bioscience community.

Robert Gabel (B.S., ’66) will soon celebrate 50 years as an energy industry professional.

Ronald P. Hennis (M.S., ’69; Ph.D., ’72) is enjoying doing method development and problem solving using the latest LCMS, FTIR, UV-VIS, RAMAN, etc. instrumental techniques for the pharmaceutical, petroleum and chemical (SPECIALTY) industries. “The passion is still there!”

Randall Kobat (B.S., ’87) was promoted to Senior Vice President of Inventory Management Software platforms at Cox Automotive located in Atlanta, Georgia. Randy joined Cox Automotive as Vice President and General Manager of the vAuto software business in January 2014 and successfully doubled the size of the business in two years, leading to his promotion. He now has responsibility for all of the Inventory related software within Cox Automotive.

Dave Kuntz (M.S., ’13) resides in Dallas, Texas, where he is a chemometric scientist at Authentix. He combines analytical chemistry, nanotechnology and big data approaches to authenticate fuels from across the globe. He is also finishing his doctorate in physical chemistry at University of North Texas.

Michael Miller (B.S., ’77) has been with the Corporate Strategic Sourcing Department of USG Corporation in Chicago for over 30 years, working with many chemical suppliers, such as Dow and Nalco. USG is a manufacturer of gypsum wallboard, joint compound and ceiling tile. Michael now resides in Oswego with his wife, Renita and two children, Jake and Hannah.

John T. Norton (B.S., ’03) is a cancer drug discovery biologist and entrepreneur working in biotech. He serves on the board of directors for a publicly traded cancer drug development company he co-founded.

Joe Perilongo (B.S., ’88) retired in August 2011 from his Chemical Waste Specialist position at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He moved to Crystal Lake, Illinois, in 2012. He volunteers at McHenry Community College as a GED math/science tutor and also helps out at local libraries.

Mohammad Tavassol Farahi (B.S., ’09) is now an Assistant Professor at California State University, which is located in the city of Long Beach.
Highlights

John E. La Tourette, president of Northern Illinois University from 1986–2000, visited La Tourette Hall in November 2013 for the unveiling of his portrait in the building’s lobby. Afterward, Dr. La Tourette talked with faculty and staff of the department. In the above photo, Dr. La Tourette speaks with Laboratory Manager Andy Small and the late Department Chair Jon Carnahan.

Flashback: December 2015

The semester is wrapping up for Israel Belmonte, chemistry major and first generation college student. His outlook is promising, and his progress is commendable, as neither of his parents speak English. Yet, as a 23-year-old senior, he has set his sights on graduate school and he intends to pursue research or management in the field of analytical chemistry. He has also completed a semester-long internship, a joint venture between Northern Illinois University’s Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Northern Illinois University’s Office of Research Compliance, Integrity and Safety.

His internship experience has included a variety of practical applications relevant to the field of chemistry. From biosafety and radiation safety to waste control and equipment calibration, Israel’s diverse experiences from this program have supplied him with valuable hands-on experience that realizes Northern Illinois University’s mission to successfully equip students for future endeavors.

Staff Spotlight: Andy Small

Laboratory Manager Andy Small began his NIU career in 1989 by joining the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. Prior to NIU, Andy worked in food production management for Ralston Purina, Nabisco Brands and Frito Lay. As Laboratory Manager, Andy is primarily responsible for departmental accounting, purchasing, safety, work orders and general business operations.

Andy Small has been honored by the Mortar Board as one of NIU’s finest. He has been a member and president of DeKalb’s School Board (District 428). In 1997, NIU named him a recipient of the university’s Outstanding Service Award. From 2000 to 2004, he was a DeKalb city alderman. He was a member of the committee that developed the current NIU Statement of Vision and Mission, approved by the NIU Board of Trustees in May 2012. In 2013, he was a recipient of the CLAS Distinguished Staff Award.

He was a member of NIU’s Operating Staff Council for over 25 years, including service as president. He is a past president of the Kishwaukee Kiwanis and currently chairs the Employee Advisory Committee representing the State University Civil Service System.

Hobbies include basketball, theater and staying active with his three children: Shelby, age 21, a senior at NIU; Lizzy, age 19, a freshman at Kishwaukee College; and James, age 16, a sophomore at DeKalb High School.
Marching to her own beat

If Rebecca Rasmussen, NIU’s newly named Student Lincoln Laureate, marches to her own beat, she certainly keeps a breathless pace.

Consider Rasmussen’s rapid accumulation of awards, leadership experiences and remarkable accomplishments: Presidential Scholar, peer mentor, Student Association senator, Habitat for Humanity volunteer, peer-assisted learning tutor, a leader in the Huskie Marching Band, principal flute in the NIU Philharmonic Orchestra, music minister and Bible-study leader at Newman Catholic Student Center. And that’s just scratching the surface.

During her time at NIU, the 22-year-old University Honors senior has maintained nearly perfect grades while double-majoring in the demanding areas of music performance and biochemistry, with a minor in biological sciences.

Along the way, Rasmussen has received numerous scholarships and awards. Earlier this year, she won the prestigious Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship to the Mayo Clinic, where she spent 10 weeks developing a new method for detecting and researching light-chain amyloidosis, a rare and deadly disease that affects kidney function.

With such accomplishments, it’s not surprising that Rasmussen was selected as the 2016-17 NIU Student Lincoln Laureate, though she had strong competition from a pool of the university’s most outstanding students.

A senior from each of the four-year institutions of higher learning in Illinois is chosen annually to receive the Lincoln Academy’s distinguished award, recognizing excellence in both curricular and extracurricular activities. The awards were presented during the annual Student Laureate Convocation at the historic Old State Capitol in Springfield.

“I have not seen another student who achieves so much here at NIU and at the same time gives so much back to both campus and society,” says Dr. Victor Ryzhov, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry who nominated Rasmussen for the Lincoln Laureate.

“With all those achievements,” Ryzhov adds, “Rebecca is the most humble and modest person you will ever meet.”

The Mayo Clinic experience was certainly among Rasmussen’s career highlights. “It was incredible to be around so many inspirational people and to see how research can actually translate into helping patients,” she says. And the NIU Marching Band was “one of the best parts of my college experience.” But Rasmussen cites neither as her most important takeaway from NIU.

“During my time at NIU, I feel that I’ve begun learning how to care more about others than myself,” she says. “To me, that’s a greater accomplishment than any academic award or leadership title.”

A Franklin Park native, Rasmussen was an academic standout at East Leyden High School, where she was valedictorian, and had an array of universities to choose from before deciding to come to NIU on scholarship.

“NIU offered me so many opportunities—the hardest part was choosing which ones,” she says. That dilemma was apparent from the start, when she decided to pursue both biochemistry and music. (She performs in NIU ensembles on two different instruments—flute and trombone.) The double-major required a ton of hard work. NIU undergraduates need 120 credit hours to graduate. When Rasmussen gets her diploma in May, she will have amassed more than 220.

“The music degree is actually somewhat more demanding because there are so many requirements outside of class,” she says. “Being a music major is basically a 24/7 lifestyle, not to say that biochemistry is easy by any means.”

If music and science seems like an odd pairing, Rasmussen would disagree. “The focus on details, the planning, the creative thinking—those skills cross over both fields,” she says.

While music will always play a big role in her life—it provided her with her first leadership experiences on campus—she plans to pursue a Ph.D. in biochemistry. She has already presented her research in several venues and is applying to graduate schools.

“I fell in love with biochemical research because of the freedom to creatively solve problems,” Rasmussen says.

This semester, while working in the laboratory of her adviser and influential mentor, biochemistry professor James Horn, she continues to conduct complex studies on protein activity.

Horn says Rasmussen isn’t merely an outstanding student. “Rebecca is a truly exceptional individual,” he says. “Scientists, at their best, are creative beings. I have no doubt that Rebecca will meld her skills and knowledge over her graduate training to become a true leader.”

Source: NIU Newsroom 11/10/16
NIU Visionaries

Faculty members recognized for work resulting in patents included chemistry and biological sciences professor Elizabeth Gaillard, chemistry professor Timothy Hagen, chemistry professor Narayan Hosmane and chemistry professor Tao Xu.

Dr. Gaillard has patented therapeutic uses of glutathione mimics. The glutathione mimic prodrug is used to administer antioxidants for disease prevention and treatment. Targeted diseases include ocular disorders, HIV/AIDS, inflammatory bowel disease, colitis, arterial ischemic stroke, various types of cancers, asthma, sickle cell disease, Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s disease, among many others. Dr. Gaillard also has patented a method of detecting biomarkers of inflammation in Bruch’s membrane of the human retina. The method helps in finding and diagnosing symptoms of immune-mediated processes during aging and AMD, a common eye disease that leads to vision loss. Use of these biomarkers and fluorescent patterns allows for early detection and non-invasive monitoring of AMD and other diseases such as cirrhosis, arteriosclerosis and Alzheimer’s disease.

Dr. Hagen has patented the design and synthesis of novel inhibitors of isoprenoid biosynthesis. The inhibitors could be useful in the fight against malaria, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, which are growing more difficult to treat due to the emergence of drug-resistant forms of the diseases. Hagen has developed a series of synthetic compounds designed to inhibit the enzyme IspF present in the MEP pathway found in bacterial and parasitic organisms. Humans do not use the MEP pathway process, so any foreign pathogen in the human body that uses the MEP pathway can be targeted by recognizing enzymes associated with MEP. Compounds from this series will lead to improved drugs and other treatments for infectious diseases such as malaria and a range of bacterial infections.

Dr. Hosmane has patented a method of making crystalline graphene. His lab successfully synthesized graphene by burning magnesium metal in dry ice. A number of methodologies have been explored in his laboratory to produce few-layer nano-sheets of graphene. This work provides innovative, simple, cost-effective and greener synthetic routes for producing a highly coveted and promising carbon nanostructure that could play a major role in electronic industries.

Dr. Xu has patented highly efficient dye-sensitized solar cells (DSSC). Nanocrystalline DSSC are appealing for solar-electric energy conversion because they can be produced on a large scale through a simple process at a low cost. Xu’s invention significantly boosts electron harvest in conventional semiconducting nanocrystalline DSSC and doubles the efficiency of other DSSCs while maintaining commercial feasibility.

“We are pleased to highlight the incredible work by members of the NIU community who are at the forefront of innovation and discovery and who are working to improve our world,” said Gerald Blazey, interim vice president of the Division of Research and Innovation Partnerships. “These faculty and staff members truly are leading the way as innovators and entrepreneurs.”

Source: NIU Today 05/02/16

James Horn: Part coach, part student

NIU Chemistry and Biochemistry Professor James Horn was one of three individuals recognized for his contributions in and out of the classroom with the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2015.

This annual award, initiated in 1966, honors excellent undergraduate teaching at Northern Illinois University, encourages improvement of instruction and promotes discussion on the subject of teaching.

“Seeing students respond to the lecture or topic – seeing that light bulb go on – that’s what I enjoy most,” Horn said. “Seeing students struggle, and then they begin understanding the topic, that’s a wonderful feeling.”

Source: NIU Today 04/13/15

Simonson Joins Department

Jeremy Simonson joined the department in May 2015. He brings nearly three years of work experience at NIU’s Center for Governmental Studies, where he conducted telephone studies for the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As public relations coordinator, Jeremy is primarily responsible for meeting with prospective students, organizing open houses and maintaining the department’s web presence. He also disseminates information, facilitates faculty evaluations and mails packages.

On a part-time basis, Jeremy is pursuing a degree in Electrical Engineering at Northern Illinois University. He graduated from Kishwaukee College with an Associate of Science degree in 2015. He enjoys assembling computers, playing video games, programming in Python and playing the piano.
Steps to Success

Over the summer, Michael Lesslie, a senior graduate student in Professor Victor Ryzhov’s research group, completed a three-month Graduate Scientific Internship program at AbbVie Inc. within the NCE Analytical Research and Development department in Lake County, IL. The opportunity was facilitated by alumnus Dr. Greg Webster, one of many Ph.D. graduates from the group of the late Professor Jon Carnahan.

Throughout the internship program, Michael worked on the development of new protocols for computationally assisted predictive drug degradation with the end goal of streamlining the current approach for the determination of decomposition products. The experiential internship program at AbbVie Inc. also provided substantial opportunity for networking with management from a diverse range of functionalities within the company.

Michael had an extremely positive experience and hopes that more graduate students will take advantage of the internship program at AbbVie Inc. and other local companies.

Following his internship, Michael Lesslie traveled to Melbourne, Australia, where he worked with Professor Richard O’Hair at the Bio21 Molecular Science and Biotechnology Institute of Melbourne University.

Michael’s trip was funded in part by the Graduate School (via a graduate student travel grant to conduct research), as well as the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

During his time in Melbourne, Michael focused on the development of new metal-based catalysts through gas-phase screening of ligated mono- and binuclear metal ion clusters. In collaboration with Professor O’Hair’s group, Michael discovered a novel method for decarboxylation of carboxylic acids using a palladium-phosphine catalyst. Additionally, his trip resulted in several additional data sets, which were recently used by Professor Ryzhov’s group when applying for a New Directions Grant from the Petroleum Research Foundation.

Michael is now more than just a few steps closer to a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry. His experiences at home and abroad have been a valuable complement to the work done in the Michael Faraday laboratories. The career of Michael Lesslie, not unlike the many Ph.D. students before him, is only just getting started.

NIU Hosts Chemistry Demonstration Night

Last April, NIU’s chemistry club hosted their annual Chemistry Demonstration Night at the Carl Sandburg Auditorium in the Holmes Student Center.

In previous years, this event was held in La Tourette Hall. In 2016, however, it was necessary to hold it in the larger Carl Sandburg Auditorium, since the previous year’s turnout resulted in overcrowding. As anticipated, more than 200 people attended the show.

Although the Chemistry Demonstration Night is a student-run event, NIU chemistry faculty assist the students in coordinating, scoping out uncharted territory and overseeing safety.

Marina Galluzzo, the coordinator for the event, explained in an interview that the presentation was primarily targeted toward children of elementary school age. “We try to aim the show towards kids so it doesn’t go over [their] heads,” said Galluzzo, “but at the same time, we’re giving enough chemistry knowledge where if a middle schooler were to come or a high schooler would come, they would still be able to learn something.”

“The Magic of Chemistry” was filled with lighthearted bickering between the two speakers, Marina Galluzzo and Devon Boland. Galluzzo, the magician, argued that the show’s experiments were fancy magic tricks, while Boland, the scientist, explained how it was simply chemistry in action.

The presenters frequently solicited audience interaction—from asking a child to verify that some carnations were real flowers, to occasionally asking the crowd whether they believed an experiment was magic or chemistry. And whenever technical difficulties arose, Galluzzo and Boland jumped in and improvised with more jokes and banter, ultimately doing a remarkable job of keeping the audience engaged for the entire evening.

Source: The Kaleidoscope 04/20/16
Spring 2014 Awards Banquet

ACS Introductory Chemistry Award ............................................................. Tyler Glawe and Ling Zhu (Highest Honors), Timothy Roback and Jordan Szymanek

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award Honorable Mention
Abraham Baker   Isabella Huminsky   Benjamin Pho
Eliya Baker      Alexis Lindstrom    Eulalio Valadez
Gregory Becker   Newell Miao        Lauren Zuidema
Zach Brazel      Lydia Moore         Taylor Berg
Charles Hallowell Kaileigh Obrycki

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award ............................Katrina Olson and Austin Schmidt

Outstanding Sophomore Award .........................................................James Gorman and Rebecca Rasmussen

Outstanding Junior Award .................................................................Daniel Jeffries
Undergraduate ACS Award in Analytical Chemistry .... Daniel Jeffries and Rebecca Rasmussen

Undergraduate ACS Award in Inorganic Chemistry .......... Daniel Jeffries
Undergraduate ACS Award in Organic Chemistry ........... Juliane Totzke

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Undergraduate Scholarship ..................................................Ian Schindlbeck
Chemistry Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship ............... Daniel Jeffries
American Institute of Chemists Award .........................Tyler Hayes
Outstanding Senior Award ......................................................Juliane Totzke
Rock River ACS Undergraduate Research Award ............ Christine Tsui
NIU Chemistry Club Undergraduate Research Award ...... Yesenia Valdivia
Van Acker–Duminy–Kovarik Endowed Scholarship .......... Jarrod Ragusin
Rosalie Reynolds Endowed Memorial Scholarship ....... Alejandra Hernandez
Dean's Award ..............................................................Audrina Pryer

NIU Chemistry Club Edwards-Hyland Award ........ Asim Muhammad
Outstanding Women Student Award .............. Lauren Grabstanowicz, Audrina Pryer, Mai Thao and Yesenia Valdivia

Winifred Halsey Scholarship ............................................Sarah Martinez
2014-15 Rhoten A. Smith Assistantship ...................... Eyrusalam Bedasso and Dionne Griffin
2014-15 Carter G. Woodson Fellowship Alternate ........ Eyrusalam Bedasso
Kevin Cull Memorial Teaching Award ...... Brian Hartnett, Jeremy Hess and Kaitlynn Sullivan

John D. Graham Scholarship .... Lauren Grabstanowicz and Zheng Zhang
Dissertation Completion Award .............................Devi Kalyan Karumanchi

Visit www.facebook.com/niuchembio to find more pictures from these years, past years and future years. Expect banquet photos to be posted to Facebook each year in early May.
Spring 2015 Awards Banquet

ACS Introductory Chemistry Award .................................................. Kristen O’Connor (Highest Honor),
Maxwell Duboff and Tyler Dougan

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award Honorable Mention
Kristyn Barrett  Marianne Heinzner  Michael Reuland
Devon Boland  Mirza Khan  Isaac Truckenbrod
Amy Dust  Jan Marco Kopecky  Tanner Yohe
Jesse Ercolani  Hannah Miles
Wataru Hashimoto  Joseph Reuland

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award......................... Drew Donnally
Outstanding Sophomore Award....... Fotis Pappas and Konstantinos Pappas
Outstanding Junior Award.................................................. Rebecca Rasmussen
Undergraduate ACS Award in Analytical Chemistry.............. John Lawler
Undergraduate ACS Award in Inorganic Chemistry ... Chanté Pniewski and
Reid Yocum
Undergraduate ACS Award in Organic Chemistry .......... Chanté Pniewski

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Undergraduate Scholarship.................................................. Frances Roth
Chemistry Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship .................. Zach Brazel
American Institute of Chemists Award.............................. Daniel Jeffries
Outstanding Senior Award ................................................. Jarrod Ragusin
Rock River ACS Undergraduate Research Award ............ Zach Brazel
NIU Chemistry Club Undergraduate Research Award .......... Daniel Jeffries
Summer Research Opportunities Program ...................... Joseph Hurley
Van Acker–Duminy–Kovarik Endowed Scholarship .. Alejandro Hernandez
Rosalie Reynolds Endowed Memorial Scholarship .......... Elisa Weiner
Jerrold H. Zar Memorial Scholarship in Science Education ... Jarrod Ragusin
Dean’s Award................................................................. Daniel Jeffries
NIU Chemistry Club Edwards-Hyland Award ............ Jennivee Westfall
2015-16 Rhoten A. Smith Assistantship .................. Eyrusalam Bedasso and
Dionne Griffin
Kevin Cull Memorial Teaching Award.......................... Brian Muller and
Dominic Rebollar
Outstanding Innovation Recognition ....................... Devi Kalyan Karumanachi,  Prof. Elizabeth Gaillard and Prof. Timothy Hagen
John D. Graham Endowed Scholarship ......................... Heather Barkholtz and
Travis Helgren
ACS Eli Lilly Travel Assistance Award ....................... Heather Barkholtz
Midwest Society of Cosmetic Chemists Scholarship ...... Jennifer Tournear
American Society for Photobiology
Urbach Student Travel Award ..................................... Jennifer Tournear
Outstanding Graduate Student Award ............... Devi Kalyan Karumanachi
Dissertation Completion Award ................................. Heather Barkholtz
Spring 2016 Awards Banquet

ACS Introductory Chemistry Award ............................................................... Allyson Alsum (Highest Honor), Shane Simonini and Megan Lewis

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award Honorable Mention
   Erik Cisneros        Zachary Liveris        Isamar Rodriguez
   Ally Ferber          Delaney Loprieno       Elis Sasi
   Patrick Kittredge    Laura Ma             Sarah Shapley
   Melaina Koulos       Cody Rasmussen

Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award ......................... Rachel Gathman
Outstanding Sophomore Award .............................................. Drew Donnelly
Outstanding Junior Award .................................................... Fotis Pappas
Undergraduate ACS Award in Analytical Chemistry .......... Brittany Gaspari
Undergraduate ACS Award in Inorganic Chemistry ......... James L. Gorman III
Undergraduate ACS Award in Organic Chemistry .............. Paolo Suating

Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
   Undergraduate Scholarship ............................................................. Lucas Kuzmanic
   Chemistry Alumni Undergraduate Scholarship ................. Eulalio Valadez Jr.
   American Institute of Chemists Award ................................. Zach Brazel
Outstanding Senior Award ........................ James L. Gorman III (Highest Honor), Kyle Mondron
Lincoln Academy of Illinois NIU Student Laureate Award Finalist ............ James L. Gorman III
Rock River ACS Undergraduate Research Award .............. Thimoro Cheng
NIU Chemistry Club Undergraduate Research Award .......... Frances Roth
John and Lili La Tourette Student Research Award .............. Frances Roth
McKearn Fellows ............................................................... Emily Fiala and Zohra Sattar
Research Rookies ............................................................ Devon Boland, Thimoro Cheng,
   Kelsey McIlwain, Gardenia Pacheco and Zohra Sattar
Simmon Scholars ........................................................... Gardenia Pacheco and Zohra Sattar
Summer Research Opportunities Program ...Devon Boland and Tu Nguyen
   Student Engagement Fund Award ........................................ Rebecca Dominguez
   Van Acker-Duminy-Kovarik Endowed Scholarship ............ Cameron Thomas
   Rosalie Reynolds Endowed Memorial Scholarship .......... Rachel Fouts
Dean’s Award ................................................................. James L. Gorman III
NIU Chemistry Club Endowed Edwin Hyland Award .......... Jorge Nevarez
NIU Chemistry Club Edwards-Hyland Award ................... Marina Galluzzo
Winifred Halsey Scholarship ............................................... Rebecca Rasmussen
Midwest Society of Cosmetic Chemists Scholarship .......... Sally Yacout
2016-17 Rhoten A. Smith Assistantship .............................. Dionne Griffin
Kevin Cull Memorial Teaching Award ....................................................
   Ashley De Lio and Jeremy Troxell
Great Journeys Assistantship ........................................ Michael Lesslie, Jennifer Tournear and Michael Vega
John D. Graham Endowed Scholarship ................................. Michael Lesslie
Dissertation Completion Award ............................................... Michael Lesslie

Lucas Kuzmanic
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Undergraduate Scholarship
(with Jon Carnahan and Lee Sunderlin)

Frances Roth
NIU Chemistry Club
Undergraduate Research Award
(with Elizabeth Gaillard)

Michael Lesslie
John D. Graham Endowed Scholarship
(with Victor Ryzhov)

Heather Barkholz and Joy Blain
Doctor of Philosophy Degree Recipients
Thank you alumni and friends! The faculty, staff and students of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry wish to express our appreciation for your continued support and generosity.

We are proud to acknowledge gifts from the following alumni and friends during the 2013, 2014 and 2015 calendar years. Organizations listed below in italics represent corporate/matching gifts.

Michael Faraday Society ($1,000 and above)
Steven W. Anderson (Ph.D., ’85); Robert M. Arduini (B.S., ’85); Michael (B.S., ’73) and Norma Cornell; Ronald (M.S., ’69; Ph.D., ’72) and Elizabeth Hennis; Thor (B.S., ’65; Ph.D., ’72) and Darlene Jondahl; Arnold E. Hampel (B.S. ’63) and Denise M. Kennedy (B.S., ’84; M.B.A., ’95); Randall (B.S., ’87) and Sharon Kobat; Gary and Isabelle (B.S., ’80; M.S.Ed., ’87; M.S.Ed., ’07) Kovarik; William (B.S., ’77; B.S., ’77; M.S., ’78) and Arlene Mickols; Dolores A. Minkema (B.S.Ed., ’51); Gordon (B.S., ’73) and Janice Nuber; James G. O’Toole; Carol E. Rolf (M.S.Ed., ’75); Andrejs V. Strauss (B.S., ’68); Harold J. Vickery (B.S., ’73); Dennis H. Evans and Mary J. Wirth (B.S., ’74); John H. Wood; Thomas M. Zydowsky (B.S., ’75; M.S., ’78); Phillips 66

Marie Curie Circle ($250–$999)
Charles (B.S., ’68) and Ann Achilles; Thomas (B.S., ’90) and Kimberly Anderson; Patrick J. Camodeca (B.S., ’83); Brad (Ph.D., ’81) and Nancy Chazotte; Ellen Cull and Michele Zavos; John Davison (B.S., ’58); Willard T. Engelskirchen (B.S., ’64) and Anne L. Filert; Glenn (B.S., ’36) and Nancy Green; Irma C. Hernandez (M.S., ’90); Michael (B.S., ’75) and Mary Holland; Robert V. Kennedy, Jr. (B.S., ’67) and Marilyn Slovak; Kim (Ph.D., ’01) and Nicole Lobring; Marc (B.S., ’70) and Charlene (B.A., ’70) Longino; Gale (B.S., ’72) and Kris (B.S., ’73) Moline; Mark and Eva (M.S., ’77) Montgomery; Lawrence (B.S., ’61) and Gracie (B.S.Ed., ’86) Osborne; Gregory Cartee and Naw May Pearl (Ph.D., ’07); Robert (B.S., ’81) and Sue (B.S., ’81) Ross; David and Michelle (B.S., ’89; M.S., ’92) Sachtleben; Michael (B.S., ’82) and Sandra Schick; Paul (B.S., ’74; M.S., ’78) and Corinne (B.S., ’75) Schmidt; Eliot (B.S., ’72) and Lynn Slovin; Dee (B.S., ’71) and Mary (B.S., ’71) Stumphy; Paul J. Taylor (B.S., ’64; Ph.D., ’71); Paul (B.S., ’05) and Virginia Weber; Mary C. Whitten (Ph.D., ’99); Barry (B.S., ’88) and Blenda Williams; Hospira Foundation

Mendeleev Group ($100–$249)
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Top Scholars of 2016

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 2016 recipient is Eulalio Valadez Jr.

The Kevin Cull Memorial Teaching Awards are presented to outstanding graduate teaching assistants at all levels of instruction. The 2016 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 2016 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 2016 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 2016 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 2016 recipient is Cameron Thomas.

For a complete listing of awards and recipients from 2014 through 2016, see pages 7, 8 and 9.