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# Department of Chemistry

## Spring 2009 Graduation Ceremony

May 16, 2009  
9:00AM  
Lyric Theatre

Blacksburg, VA



VirginiaTech  
*Invent the Future*<sup>®</sup>

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# Diploma Ceremony

Processional

Welcome.....*Dr. Joseph S. Merola*  
*Chemistry Department Chairman*

Recognition of 2008-2009 Chemistry Award Recipients

*Academic Excellence Awards*  
*Analytical Chemistry Award*  
*CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award*  
*James Lewis Howe Award*  
*Hypercube Scholar Award*  
*McGrath Award*  
*Phi Lambda Upsilon Award*  
*Stars of Excellence Awards*  
*Undergraduate Research Awards*  
*University Recognition*  
*Viers Achievement Awards*

Recognition of 2008-2009 scholarship recipients

Recognition of Graduate Student Awards

*Graduate Teaching Assistant Awards*  
*Graduate Research Awards*

Recognition of Faculty and Staff Awards

Graduation Ceremony Speaker.....*Dr. Joseph M. DeSimone*  
*Chancellor's Eminent Professor of Chemistry,*  
*The University of North Carolina*  
*William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of Chemical Engineering,*  
*North Carolina State University*

Presentation of Diplomas

*Conferral of Undergraduate Degrees*  
*Bachelor of Arts*  
*Bachelor of Science*

Recognition of Graduate Degree Conferral

*Master of Science*  
*Doctor of Philosophy*

Recessional

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# Undergraduate Student Awards

## Academic Excellence Award

This award of a certificate and \$100 goes to undergraduate chemistry majors who have demonstrated excellence and exhibited a sense of professionalism in their academic studies. This year's Academic Excellence awards go to

*Kayla Bulmer*

*Heejun Choi*

*Kelly Daly*

*Paige Gardner*

*Jennifer Harvey*

*Leah Heist*

*Katie Magruder*

*Sarah Miller*

*Wesley Morris*

*Madeline Nestor*

*Michael Russell*

*Lilit Stepanyan*

*David Tatum*

## Analytical Chemistry Award

The ACS Division of Analytical Chemistry provides an Undergraduate Award in Analytical Chemistry to a chemistry major to recognize students who do well in college-level analytical chemistry. This year the award, which consists of a certificate, \$100, membership in the Division of Analytical Chemistry, and a subscription to *Analytical Chemistry*, goes to *Adam Roberts*.

## CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement Award

The Chemical Rubber Company Press provides undergraduate awards to recognize outstanding scholastic achievement in first-year college chemistry. The award consists of a certificate, \$100, and a copy of the *CRC Handbook of Chemistry and Physics*. This year's CRC Freshman Chemistry Achievement award recipient is *Martha Blakely*.

## James Lewis Howe Award

This award is presented by the Virginia Blue Ridge Section of the American Chemical Society to a senior chemistry major chosen by the Chemistry Department. The award was presented at the April Blue Ridge Section meeting to *Wes Morris*. In recognition of this honor the Department of Chemistry contributes an additional \$100.

## Hypercube Scholar Award

This senior award, which consists of a certificate and a copy of the Hyperchem molecular modeling software package, is presented annually by Hypercube, Inc. We try to select a recipient who will make effective use of this very expensive and powerful software. This year's Hypercube Scholar award recipient is *Andrew Sweeney*.

## McGrath Award

Virginia Tech alumni, Joseph DeSimone and Timothy Long, established this award in honor of Professor James E. McGrath to provide \$100 awards to undergraduate students who "demonstrated excellence in polymer chemistry with a passion for interdisciplinary research in the field of polymer chemistry". This award reflects Prof. McGrath's commitment to interdisciplinary research and discovery at emerging interfaces of polymer chemistry. Our McGrath Award winners this year are *Jeneffer Bey* and *Heejun Choi*.

### Phi Lambda Upsilon Award

Phi Lambda Upsilon, the national chemistry honorary society, recognizes an outstanding senior in our department each year. This year's Phi Lambda Upsilon award, which consists of a certificate and \$100, goes to *Madeline Nestor*.

### Stars of Excellence Award

The "Stars of Excellence" awards are given to the top 1 % of students in the CHEM 2545/2546 and 2565 organic laboratory courses. This year's awards, which consist of a certificate and \$100, go to

*Kelly Berberian*

*Patricia Irvine*

*Kayla Otto*

*Elizabeth Blackwell*

*Jung-Ah Kim*

*Kia Sedghi*

*Morgan Hankin*

*Michael Laguarda*

*Alyson Snyder*

### Undergraduate Research Award

The Chemistry Department has had a long tradition of supporting undergraduate research. We recognize excellence in research with a certificate and \$100. Students are nominated by their research supervisor and approved for the award by the Undergraduate Committee. This year we recognize *Sandra Hobson*, *Aaron J. Prussin II*, and *David Tatum* for their excellence in undergraduate research.

### University Recognition

The Chemistry Department selected *Wes Morris* as our Outstanding Senior this year.

### Viers Achievement Award

A Virginia Tech alumnus, Dr. Don Lee, has donated funds in honor of Dr. Jimmy Viers to provide \$100 awards to students who "demonstrate superior understanding in the field of general chemistry...with strong emphasis given to the effort required by the students." Our award winners this year are *Maureen Farrell*, *Jeremie Ferey*, *Sarah Logsdon*, *Rachele Piemonte*, and *Karina Platt*.

## 2008-2009 Chemistry Scholarship Recipients

*John Nairne Adams*

*Leah M. Heist*

*Madeline Nestor*

*Elizabeth Blackwell*

*Aaron F. Holley*

*Alex M. Rich*

*Sarah M. Bruner*

*Michael Hundley*

*Michael Skarbek*

*Joseph Casola*

*Rachel Leslie*

*Lilit Stepanyan*

*Julia D. Cushen*

*Monica McEntee*

*Lawrence Stern*

*Kelly M. Daly*

*Kyle J. Moor*

*David S. Tatum*

*Peter Havelos*

*Wesley Morris*

*Katherine Wong*

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## Graduate Student Awards

### Graduate Teaching Assistant Award

Each year the department recognizes excellence in teaching by our outstanding graduate teaching assistants. Professors in charge of laboratory courses, and the faculty in general, nominate GTAs for this award. The Chemistry Department Graduate Committee then chooses individuals from the nominations to receive the award, which consists of a certificate and \$100. The awards are made for service during the 2008-2009 academic year. This year's Graduate Teaching Assistant award recipients are

*Charles Carfagna* (nominated by *Dr. Patricia Amateis*)  
*Erin Davis* (nominated by *Dr. John Morris*)  
*Lesley Owens* (nominated by *Dr. Gary Long*)

### Graduate Research Award

It is certainly fair to say that the lifeblood of any chemistry department is the graduate student who performs the great majority of research in the department. The Chemistry Department has had a long tradition of excellence in research. Students are nominated by the research supervisor and today we recognize the following students for their excellence in graduate research and present each with a certificate and \$100.

*William Alexander* (nominated by *Dr. Diego Troya*)  
*Avijita Jain* (nominated by *Dr. Karen Brewer*)  
*Hae-Seung Lee* (nominated by *Dr. Jim McGrath*)  
*Yanpeng Hou* (nominated by *Dr. David Kingston*)

## Faculty and Staff Awards

### Harold McNair Staff Service Award

The Harold McNair Staff Service Award is a classified staff award recognizing outstanding service at the department, university, and community levels. This year's Harold McNair Staff Service Award recipient is *Tom Wortalik*, the glassblower in the department's Glass Shop.

### Alan F. Clifford Faculty Service Award

The Clifford Service Award is a faculty award recognizing outstanding service at the department, university, and community levels. This year's Alan F. Clifford Faculty Service Award recipient is *Dr. John Morris*.

### Viers Teaching Award

The Viers Teaching award is a faculty award recognizing excellence in teaching. The recipient of this award will be announced at the ceremony. (Award presented to Prof. John R. Morris)

### Schug Research Award

The Schug Research Award is a faculty award recognizing excellence in research. The recipient of this award will be announced at the ceremony. (Award presented to Prof. Judy S. Riffle)

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# Degree Conferrals

## Bachelor of Arts & Bachelor of Science Degrees

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<b>Christopher David Ackerman</b>	<b>Kelley Ann McQuiddy</b>
<b>Erica Nicole Bailey</b>	<b>Sarah Bethany Miller</b> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Courtney Nicole Baskeyfield</b>	<b>Wesley Daniel Morris</b> <sup>1,4</sup>
<b>Ryan William Betzler</b>	<b>Casey Franklin Morrison, II</b> <sup>3</sup>
<b>Kayla Megan Bulmer</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Melissa Lyn Muskopf</b>
<b>William Cong Cang</b>	<b>Madeline Rose Nestor</b> <sup>1</sup>
<b>Rishi Chopra</b>	<b>Steven Ross Patrick</b>
<b>Jason Michael Cox</b>	<b>Matthew James Powell</b>
<b>Julia Dianne Cushen</b> <sup>1,4</sup>	<b>Adam Berkley Roberts</b> <sup>2</sup>
<b>Johanna Eamir Dunlap</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Charles A. Ronco</b>
<b>Lauren Rae Fischer</b>	<b>Lauren Margaret Roundy</b>
<b>Dillon Reid Gabbert</b>	<b>Kendra Shin</b>
<b>Farnoush Ghaderi</b> <sup>2</sup>	<b>Elizabeth Spencer</b>
<b>Lee Meredith Ginter</b>	<b>Brian Christopher Story</b>
<b>Derrick Von Gough</b>	<b>Laura Ann Stulga</b>
<b>Evan Cody Graham</b>	<b>Andrew Francis Sweeney</b>
<b>Peter Athanasios Havelos</b> <sup>1</sup>	<b>David Sherrod Tatum</b> <sup>1,5</sup>
<b>Nora Nicole Helton</b>	<b>Alisha Ruth Temples</b>
<b>Patrick Jason Honeycutt</b>	<b>Jenna Amanda Templeton</b>
<b>Robert Merle Hull, III</b>	<b>Lauren Elizabeth Thompson</b>
<b>Ji Young Kim</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Kelsey English Thornton</b>
<b>Melissa R. Kok</b>	<b>Huy That Ton</b>
<b>Ka-Po Leung</b>	<b>Katherine Lynn Wong</b>
<b>Andrew Thomas Lucas</b> <sup>3</sup>	<b>Dane Scott Yezek</b>
<b>Sarai Ashley McMillan</b> <sup>3</sup>	

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<sup>1</sup> Summa Cum Laude

<sup>2</sup> Magna Cum Laude

<sup>3</sup> Cum Laude

<sup>4</sup> Honors Program Honors Scholar

<sup>5</sup> Honors Program Honors Baccalaureate

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## Master of Science Degrees

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**Marcelo Actis (Dr. Gandour)**

**Charles Samuel Carfagna (Dr. Deck)**

**Yi Li (Dr. Turner)**

**Bhadreshkumar Maisuriua (Dr. Gandour)**

## Doctor of Philosophy Degrees

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**Leslie Ann Adamczyk (Dr. Mark Anderson and Dr. John Morris)**

**William Andrew Alexander (Dr. Diego Troya)**

**Matthew Paul Cashion (Dr. T. Long)**

**Liangming Hu (Dr. Hanson)**

**Richard Vincent Macri (Dr. Gandour)**

**Keiichi Osano (Dr. Turner)**

**Adam Micheal-Paul Pederson (Dr. Gibson)**

**Joshua Robert Uzarski (Dr. Morris)**

**Larry Williams (Dr. Carlier)**

**Sharlene Williams (Dr. T. Long)**

**Wen Yin (Dr. Esker)**

**David F. Zigler (Dr. Brewer)**

*Congratulations, Graduates!*

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## Department of Chemistry Faculty

AMATEIS, Patricia G. (1996), Associate Professor. Ph.D., Virginia Tech, 1984.  
BREWER, Karen J. (1992), Professor. Ph.D., Clemson University, 1987.  
BUMP, Maggie B. (2002), Instructor. Ph.D., Virginia Tech, 2001.  
CARLIER, Paul R. (2000), Professor. Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1988.  
CRAWFORD, T. Daniel, (2000), Professor. Ph.D., University of Georgia, 1996.  
DECK, Paul A. (1995), Associate Professor. Ph.D., University of Minnesota, 1993.  
DORN, Harry C. (1974), Professor. Ph.D., University of California (Davis), 1974.  
EDDLETON, Jeannine E. (1991), Advanced Instructor. M.S., Virginia Tech, 1996.  
ESKER, Alan R. (1999), Associate Professor. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1996.  
ETZKORN, Felicia A. (2000), Professor. Ph.D., University of California (Berkeley), 1991.  
GANDOUR, Richard D. (1993), Professor. Ph.D., Rice University, 1972.  
GIBSON, Harry W. (1986), Professor. Ph.D., Clarkson University, 1966.  
HANSON, Brian E. (1980), Professor. Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 1978.  
KINGSTON, David G. I. (1971), University Distinguished Professor. Ph.D., Cambridge University, 1964.  
LONG, Gary L. (1983), Associate Professor. Ph.D., North Carolina State University, 1982.  
LONG, Timothy E. (1999), Professor. Ph.D., Virginia Tech, 1987.  
LONG, Victoria (1999), Instructor. M.S. Virginia Tech, 1987.  
MADSEN, Louis A., (2006) Assistant Professor. Ph.D., California Institute of Technology, 2002.  
MARAND, Hervé (1989), Professor. Ph.D., University of Massachusetts, 1987.  
McGRATH, James E. (1975), University Distinguished Professor, Ph.D., University of Akron, 1967.  
MEROLA, Joseph S. (1987), Professor and Chair. Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1978.  
MOORE, Robert B. (2007), Professor. Ph.D., Texas A&M University, 1988.  
MORRIS, John R. (1999), Professor. Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, 1996.  
REINEKE, Theresa M. (2008), Associate Professor. Ph.D., The University of Michigan, 2000.  
RIFFLE, Judy S., (1988), Professor. Ph.D., Virginia Tech, 1981.  
SANTOS, Webster L. (2006), Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Virginia, 2002.  
SLEBODNICK, Carla (1998), Instructor. Ph.D., Northwestern University, 1995.  
TANKO, James M. (1986), Professor. Ph.D., Iowa State University, 1985.  
TISSUE, Brian M. (1993), Associate Professor. Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1988.  
TROYA, Diego (2004), Associate Professor. Ph.D., Universidad de La Rioja, Spain, 2001.  
TURNER, S. Richard (2005), Research Professor & Director of MII. Ph.D., University of Florida, 1971.  
VALEEV, Edward F. (2006), Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Georgia, 2000.  
YEE, Gordon T. (2001), Associate Professor. Ph.D., Stanford University, 1990.  
WI, Sungsool (2004), Assistant Professor. Ph.D., University of Illinois (Chicago), 2001.

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University**  
**College of Science**  
**Department of Chemistry**  
**<http://www.chem.vt.edu>**