

# 2024 Lee Lecture and Awards Dinner Recognizes Graduate Excellence in Chemistry

Friday, May 24, 2024

UCI School of Physical Sciences



Professors Sarah Finkeldei and Maxx Arguilla emceed the awards dinner that recognized graduate student excellence in the Department of Chemistry.

On Thursday, May 9th, the UCI Department of Chemistry hosted the 2024 Lee Lecture and Awards Dinner. Joseph S. Francisco, President's Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania, gave the lecture on his research into the chemistry behind acid rain. The lecture was followed by an awards dinner, hosted by Professors Sarah Finkeldei and Maxx Arguilla, that recognized graduate student excellence in the chemistry department.

The E.K.C. Lee Lecture and Dinner honors one of Chemistry's founding faculty: Professor Edward Lee. Ed came to the U.S. for undergraduate studies at Kansas Wesleyan University and graduated as valedictorian in his class. He then joined Sherry Rowland's Group at the University of Kansas where he completed his Ph.D. studies in just 3.5 years. He helped run the Rowland Group in Kansas while Sherry was here, setting up the new UCI Chemistry Department. Ed began at UCI as an Assistant Professor in 1965 and was promoted to full Professor in a total of just six years – a record of rapid promotion not yet exceeded on this campus. In addition to his exemplary scientific achievements in his too brief life, Ed was even more respected for his integrity, cooperation, and friendship. To honor Ed, the Department established the annual Lee Lecture and Dinner beginning in 1988.

Congratulations to the awardees:

**Catherine Seo**

Chemistry Mentorship Award

**Jose Uribe**

Graduate Award for Departmental Service

**Amanda Abiad**

Most Promising Future Faculty

**James Griffin**

Most Promising Future Faculty

**Katherine Hopstock**

Outstanding Contribution to the Chemistry Department - Honored by School of Physical Sciences

**Emma Brass**

Contributions to the Chemistry Department Teaching Program by a TA - 1st Year

**Alexis Ravenscroft**

Contributions to the Chemistry Department Teaching Program by a TA - 1st Year

**Chelsea Jones**

Contributions to the Chemistry Department Teaching Program by a TA - Continuing

**Jordan Castro**

Contributions to the Chemistry Department Teaching Program by a TA - Continuing

**Praveen Prabhakar**

Contributions to the Chemistry Department Teaching Program by a TA - upper-division student

**Sebastian Fernandez**

Don L. Bunker Award

**Megan Rocha**

Graduate Student Award from the American Institute of Chemists

**Jose Uribe**

Smitrovich Prize

**Patrick McShea**

Gebel Award

**Madison Landi**

Gebel Award

**Kasey Edwards**

Gebel Award

**Austin Green**

Wolfsberg Award in Theoretical Chemistry

**Xintong Hou**

Hal Moore Award

**Katherine Hopstock**

Joan Rowland Award

**Elizabeth Diessner**

Edward K.C. Lee Award

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