

Student Honors & Awards

(UNDERGRADUATE)



2002 Barrett Prize winner *Joshua M. Lapan* with *Mrs. Alan H. (Virginia) Barrett, Department Head* *Prof. Marc A. Kastner (far left)* and *Undergraduate Major Coordinator Prof. David E. Pritchard.*



2002 Brown Prize winner *Joshua M. Thompson* with *Prof. Marc A. Kastner (left)* and *Prof. David E. Pritchard.*

2002 Barrett Prize For Excellence in Astrophysics

Joshua M. Lapan SB '02

Thesis advisor: Alan H. Guth

The award, established by students, friends, relatives and colleagues of the late Professor Alan Barrett, honors his outstanding influence in the education of physicists and his fundamental contributions to the science and technology of astrophysics. A \$1,000 prize is awarded annually to a senior undergraduate or graduate in Astrophysics.

2002 Malcolm Cotton Brown Award

Joshua M. Thompson SB '02

Thesis advisor: Ulrich Becker

Awarded to a senior of high academic standing in physics who plans to pursue graduate study in experimental physics. Given in memory of Lt. Malcolm Cotton Brown, Royal Air Force, who was killed in service on July 23, 1918. The fund currently provides a prize of \$1,000.

Photos: Heather Williams

Student Honors & Awards



2002 Orloff Award winner for Scholarship *Abhinav Kumar* with Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Orloff, Prof. Marc A. Kastner and Prof. David E. Pritchard (far right).



2002 Orloff Award winner for Service *Teresa A. Fazio* with Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Orloff, Prof. Marc A. Kastner and Prof. David E. Pritchard (far right).

Not pictured: 2002 Orloff Award winner for Research *Stefan Gromoll*.

2002 Joel Matthew Orloff Awards Scholarship

Abhinav Kumar SB '02

Thesis advisor: Arthur Mattack—*Mathematics*

Research

Stefan Gromoll SB '02

Thesis advisor: Christoph Paus

Service

Teresa A. Fazio SB '02

Thesis advisor: Ulrich Becker

The Joel Matthew Orloff Awards were established by Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Orloff in memory of their son Joel, a physics major, who died in an automobile accident shortly after graduation from MIT in 1978. One thousand dollars is awarded to each of several physics majors in the following three categories:

Scholarship—given to the student with either the highest GPA in physics courses or, if a tie, the highest overall GPA.

Research—given to the student with the most outstanding senior thesis.

Service—given to the student with the most outstanding service to the Department, Institute, or community.

Photos: Heather Williams



2002 Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees *Prof. M. A. Kastner, V. Pahilwani, G. Zojcheski, Prof. D. E. Pritchard, A. Kumar, B. Miller and J. Lapan*

2002 Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees

Richard Burstein	Joshua Lapan	Ian Parrish
Christopher Chou	Brendan Miller	Daniel Preda
Kelly Clancy	Trisha Montalbo	Boris Zbarsky
Abhinav Kumar	Vijay Pahilwani	Goce Zojcheski

2002 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees

Richard Burstein	Trisha Montalbo	Boris Zbarsky
Abhinav Kumar	Ian Parrish	

2002 Burchard Scholars

Annemarie Grandke '04

Megha Padi '03

Mikael Rechtsman '03

Natalia Toro '03

The Burchard Scholars Program brings together distinguished members of the faculty and promising sophomores and juniors who have demonstrated excellence in some aspect of the humanities, arts, and social sciences, as well as in science and engineering. The Burchard Program format is a series of dinner-seminars held during the academic year to discuss topics of current research introduced by MIT faculty members. The Program is sponsored by the Dean's Office, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences.

Other Undergraduate Honors & Awards

Alex Wissner-Gross (SB '03 Physics/Electrical Engineering/Mathematics. Thesis advisor: Boleslaw Wyslouch) was awarded first-place nationally in the **2002 Intel Research Award Contest for Undergraduate Students**, for his summer research in nanofabrication for connecting molecular electronic devices.

GRADUATE

2002 Buechner Teaching Prize

James McBride Center for Theoretical Physics

Thesis advisor: Edward Farhi

Jeffrey Bowers Center for Theoretical Physics

Thesis advisor: Krishna Rajagopal

Awarded to a student for outstanding contributions to the educational program of the Department of Physics. The prize was established in 1987 by Mrs. Christina Buechner in memory of her husband, Professor William Buechner, who served as chairman of the Physics Department from 1962–67. The prize includes a certificate and a cash award of \$1,000.

2002 Martin Deutsch Student Award For Excellence in Experimental Physics

Lingyan Zhu Experimental nuclear and particle physics

Thesis advisor: Haiyan Gao

Awarded to a graduate student in the mid-course of research for study in any area of physics, with preference given to experimental physics. The award was created in honor of Professor Martin Deutsch's outstanding contributions to Nuclear Physics as an educator and researcher and currently carries a prize of \$1,000.

2002 Andrew M. Lockett III Memorial Fund Award

Sebastian Franco Center for Theoretical Physics

Thesis advisor: Amihay Hanany

Awarded to a graduate student in theoretical physics, with preference given to students from Los Alamos, NM, and New Orleans, LA. The award currently carries a prize of \$1,000. The award was established by Mrs. Lucille Lockett Stone in memory of her husband, Dr. Andrew M. Lockett, who received his PhD in physics from MIT in 1954.

2002 Sergio Vazquez Prize

Kimani Stancil Experimental Condensed Matter Physics

Thesis advisors: Michael Feld, Mehran Kardar, Toyochi Tanaka

Awarded to a graduate student in the MIT Department of Physics, with preference given to students from an under-represented sector of the population who may have had to overcome racial, physical or financial barriers. The award was established in memory of Sergio Vazquez, a graduate student in the MIT Center for Theoretical Physics, who was killed in an automobile accident in April 1990. The award currently carries a prize of \$1,000.

Other Graduate Honors & Awards

Kristin Burgess (Astrophysics. Thesis advisor: Alan H. Guth) received the **2002 American Association of Physics Teachers Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**. The AAPT is an organization dedicated to enhancing the understanding and appreciation of physics through teaching.

Peter Falus (Experimental Condensed Matter Physics. Thesis advisors: Simon Mochrie, J. David Litster) received the **"Best Poster Award"** at the Fall 2001 meeting of the Materials Research Society, for his poster entitled "X-ray Photon Correlation Study of Block Copolymer Micelles".

Jon M. Miller (PhD '02. Thesis advisor: Walter H. G. Lewin) received an **NSF Astronomy and Astrophysics Postdoctoral Fellowship**, which will enable him to continue to research black holes for three years at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Matthew Muterspaugh (Astrophysics. Thesis advisor: Bernard F. Burke) was awarded a **Michelson Fellowship for graduate research in optical interferometry**. Matthew will be making high precision observations of stellar companions. This is a three-year fellowship and includes a small research budget. The Michelson Fellowship Program is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory.