Student Honors & Awards

UNDERGRADUATE

2015 Alan Barrett Prize
Weishuang (Linda) Xu SB ’15
Thesis supervisor: Anna Frebel
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.

2015 Malcolm Cotton Brown Award
Tamara Dordevic SB ’15
Thesis supervisors: Dirk Englund, Vladan Vuletic
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.
2015 Burchard Scholars

**Bhaskaran “Bhaskar” Balaji** SB ’16, Mathematics & Physics

**Leyatt Betre** SB ’16, Physics & Political Science

**Yihui Quek** SB ’16, Physics & Mathematics

**Christopher Sanfilippo** SB ’17, Physics & Mathematics

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.

2015 Philip Morse Memorial Award

**Jordan Cotler** SB ’15

Awarded to a senior of high academic standing in physics who plans to pursue graduate study in physics. Given in memory of Philip Morse, MIT Professor of Physics, one of the renowned physicists of the 20th century, whose contributions spanned from basic physics to engineering. The fund currently provides a prize of $1,000.

The Order of the Lepton Award

**Michael Flynn** SB ’15

Thesis supervisor: Mehran Kardar

Awarded to a graduating senior who best exemplifies the spirit and characteristics of MIT’s Physics students. Established with gifts from alumni and friends of the Department, the Order of the Lepton embodies the community and collaboration that are two of the hallmarks of the MIT Physics Department. The fund provides a prize of $1,000.
2015 Joel Matthew Orloff Awards

Scholarship
Alexander Siegenfeld SB ’15

Research
Trond Andersen SB ’15
Research supervisor: Pablo Jarillo-Herrero

Service
QinQin Yu SB ’15
Research supervisor: Vladan Vuletic

Thomas J. Wilkason SB ’15
Research supervisor: Jesse Thaler

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.
2015 Sigma Pi Sigma inductees

2015 Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees

Joseph Abadi  
Trond Andersen  
Juana Becerra  
Norman Cao  
Andrew Chen  
Yu-An Chen  
Jordan Cotler  
Tamara Dordevic

Stephen Eltinge  
Steven Fine  
Cole Graham  
Tessa Green  
Matthew Heising  
Alex Kiefer  
JooHun Kim  
Yuri Lensky

Alwina Liu  
Rodrigo Paniza Araujo  
Alexander Siegenfeld  
Michael Turek  
Sarah Vente  
Charles Xu  
Hung-I Yang
2015 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees

Joseph Abadi
Juana Becerra
Norman Cao
Andrew Chen
Yu-An Chen
Jordan Cotler
Tamara Dordevic
Stephen Eltinge
Steven Fine
Matthew Heising
Jonathan Jove
Alwina Liu
Alexander Siegenfeld
Michael Turek
Sarah Vente
Charles Xu
Other Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Alexander Siegenfeld (SB ’15, Physics & Mathematics) was named a 2015 Hertz Fellow by The Fannie and John Hertz Foundation, and awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.

Vivian Tran (SB ’16, Physics & Nuclear Science & Engineering. Academic advisor: Scott A. Hughes) won First Prize in the 2015 Isabelle de Courtivron Prize competition, sponsored by the MIT Center for Bilingual/Bicultural Studies; was awarded First Prize, Poetry, Boit Manuscript Prize, sponsored by the Ilona Karmel Writing Prizes of MIT’s Comparative Media Studies program; and received a 2015 Undergraduate Scholarship from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Office of Nuclear Energy Integrated University Programs.

Christina Tringides (SB ’15. Academic advisor: Nevin Weinberg) was awarded a 2015-2016 Fulbright U.S. Student Program Study/Research grant in support of research on neural prosthetics at the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Switzerland.
2015 Henry Kendall Teaching Awards
The Kendall Awards are given semi-annually to graduate student Teaching Assistants (TAs), whose teaching work for the Department is considered outstanding and beyond what is expected of a good TA. The award carries a prize of $1,000.

September 2014 Award Recipients

Richard Alexander Barbieri (Experimental Nuclear & Particle Physics. Thesis supervisor: Boleslaw Wyslouch) “For going out of his way to help students in 8.03.”

Adam Bookatz (Theoretical Nuclear & Particle Physics. Thesis supervisor: Edward Farhi) “For elegant, precise, and complete solutions in 8.05, and for being kind and caring to its students.”

Alexander Pung Ji (Astrophysics. Thesis supervisor: Anna Frebel) “For going far beyond the call of duty, and for extraordinary teaching ability, in 8.282 and 8.284.”

Janos Perczel (Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics. Thesis supervisor: Mikhail Lukin) “For fantastic teaching in 8.02, and always engaging with the students.”

Fangfei Shen (SB ’11; SM Science Writing. Thesis supervisor: Janet Conrad) “For helping to plan and shape in-class discussions in 8.226, and for outstanding guidance to its students.”

The following graduate award recipients for the 2013-14 academic year were announced in September 2013. The winners of the 2014-15 awards will be published in the Fall 2016 issue of physics@mit.

2014 Martin Deutsch Student Award
For Excellence in Experimental Physics

Doga Can Gulhan Experimental Nuclear & Particle Physics
Thesis supervisor: Gunther Roland

Colin Kennedy Atomic Physics
Thesis supervisor: Wolfgang Ketterle

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.
2014 Andrew M. Lockett III Memorial Fund Award

Yonatan Kahn  Theoretical Nuclear & Particle Physics
Thesis supervisor: Jesse Thaler
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.

2014 Sergio Vazquez Prize

Roberto Sanchez Ojeda  Astrophysics
Thesis supervisor: Joshua Winn
Established in memory of Sergio Vazquez, a graduate student in the Center for Theoretical Physics who was killed in an automobile accident on April 1, 1990. $1,000 to be awarded annually to a graduate student, with preference for a student from an underrepresented sector of the population who had to overcome racial, physical or financial barriers.

Other Graduate Honors & Awards

Nancy Aggarwal  (Atomic Physics. Thesis supervisor: Nergis Mavalvala) has been named a 2015 Graduate Woman of Excellence by MIT’s Office of the Dean for Graduate Education.
Marjon Moulai  (Experimental Neutrino Physics. Thesis supervisor: Janet Conrad) was awarded a 2015 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship.
Alex Zylstra  (Plasma Physics. Thesis supervisor: Richard Petrasso) was awarded a Frederick Reines Distinguished Postdoctoral Fellowship by the Los Alamos National Laboratory.