2017 Alan Barrett Prize

Shi-Fan (Stephen) Chen SB ’17

Thesis supervisor: Robert Simcoe

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.

2017 Malcolm Cotton Brown Award

Grace Zhang SB ’17

Thesis supervisor: Suchitra Sebastian, Cambridge University

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.
2017 Burchard Scholars

Jaclyn Baughman SB ’19, Physics
Benjamin Harpt SB ’18, Physics
Ian McFarlane SB ’18, Physics

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.

2017 Philip Morse Memorial Award

Aashish Tripathee SB ’17

Thesis supervisor: Jesse Thaler
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

Grace Zhang SB ’17

Research supervisor: Suchitra Sebastian, Cambridge University
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 is one of the hallmarks of the MIT Physics Department. The fund provides a prize of $1,000.
2017 Joel Matthew Orloff Awards

Scholarship
Shi-Fan (Stephen) Chen SB ’17
   Research supervisor: Robert Simcoe

Research
Kevin Zhou SB ’17
   Research supervisor: Jesse Thaler

Service
Caitlin Fischer SB ’18
Zachary Hall SB ’18
Andrea Herman SB ’18
Jeannette Maisano-Brown SB ’18
Grace Zhang SB ’17
   Research supervisor: Suchitra Sebastian, Cambridge University

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.
2017 Sigma Pi Sigma Inductees

Abdulla Alsalloum  Robert Jones  Tomohiro Soejima
Brandon Benson    Saarik Kalia    Nagisa Tadjfar
Uttara Chakraborty Stephen (Yu-Ting) Liu   Michael Traub
Stephen (Shi-Fan) Chen  William Moses   Vickie Ye
Alexander Dalzell      Alana Papula    Chengkai Zhang
Boryana Doyle         Connor Popik    Grace Zhang
Matthew Hodel         Andres Rios Tascon  Kevin Zhou
2017 Phi Beta Kappa inductees.

2017 Phi Beta Kappa Inductees

Brandon Benson
Uttara Chakraborty
Shi-Fan (Stephen) Chen
Alexander Dalzell
Matthew Hodel
Robert Jones
Saarik Kalia
Yu-Ting Liu
Alana Papula
Connor Popik
Andres Rios Tascon
Tomohiro Soejima
Nagisa Tadjfar
Vickie Ye
Other Undergraduate Awards & Honors

Abdullah Alsalloum (SB ’17, Physics & Materials Science & Engineering. Thesis advisor: Michael Tarkanian) received the 2017 Outstanding Senior Thesis Award from the MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering.

Uttara Chakraborty (SB ’17, Physics & Electrical Engineering & Computer Science) received a 2017 National Defense Science and Engineering Graduate Fellowship; a 2017 National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship; the 2017 Ida M. Green Fellowship of the MIT Office of the Dean for Graduate Education; the MIT School of Engineering’s 2017 Super UROP Technical Paper Award; and inducted into Sigma Xi (Scientific Research Honor Society), Tau Beta Pi (Engineering Honor Society), and Eta Kappa Nu (Electrical Engineering & Computer Science Honor Society).

Caitlin Fischer (SB ’18. Academic advisors: R. Scott Kemp, Ibrahim Cissé) received a 2017 History Undergraduate Writing Prize from MIT’s History Department in recognition of excellence in historical research and writing.

Zachary Hall (SB ’18. Academic advisor: Robert Simcoe) received a 2017 History Undergraduate Writing Prize from MIT’s History Department in recognition of excellence in historical research and writing.

William Moses (SB ’17, Physics & Electrical Engineering & Computer Science; M.Eng. ’17, Electrical Engineering & Computer Science. Academic advisor: Joseph Checkelsky) won Best Paper at the 22nd ACM SIGPLAN Symposium on Principles and Practice of Parallel Programming; received MIT’s Larry G. Benedict Leadership Award for his “efforts to create a community to better student life,” as well as the Robert M. Fano UROP Award for his SuperUROP research project on TAPIR.

Kevin Zhou (SB ’17. Academic advisors: Jeremy England, Jesse Thaler) was awarded a 2017 Marshall Scholarship in support of graduate studies at the University of Cambridge, UK.
2016 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 that which is expected of a good TA. The award carries a prize of $1,000.

September 2016 Award Recipients

Anirudh Chiti (Astrophysics; Thesis supervisor: Anna Frebel) “For his work as a TA in 8.01, in which he demonstrated an extraordinary ability to easily explain details, paired with a strong desire and the dedication to make sure every student’s question was fully answered.”

Byron Drury (Theoretical Condensed Matter Physics; Thesis supervisor: Eric Heller, Harvard University) “For the great job he did in 8.044, in which he was an amazingly successful TA, always helpful to the students as well as the instructors of the course.”

Hongwan Liu (Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics; Thesis supervisor: Tracy Slatyer) “For the great job he did as the TA for 8.033; he did a great deal of work to design psets, came up with novel and creative problems, explained difficult concepts gracefully, and helped students both to learn as much as possible from the class and to appreciate the beauty of the material.”

Aditya Pathak (Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics; Thesis supervisor: Iain Stewart) “For his dedication to helping students improve their written and spoken presentations, for helping them enjoy the hands-on work of the lab, and for becoming a great all-around 8.13 TA.”
The following graduate award recipients for the 2015-16 academic year were announced in September 2016. The winners of the 2016-17 awards will be published in the Fall 2018 issue of physics@mit.

2016 Buechner Student Teaching Prize

Ivana Dimitrova, Atomic Physics
Thesis supervisor: Wolfgang Ketterle
Awarded to a graduate student for outstanding contributions to the educational program of the Department during the past academic year. The $1,000 prize was established in 1987 by the late Mrs. Christina Buechner in memory of her husband Prof. William Buechner, who served as Physics department head from 1962-67.

2016 Martin Deutsch Student Award
For Excellence in Experimental Physics

Gabriel Collin Experimental Nuclear and Particle Physics
Thesis supervisor: Janet Conrad
Alexander Pung Ji Astrophysics
Thesis supervisor: Anna Frebel
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.

2016 Andrew M. Lockett III Memorial Fund Award

Nicholas Rodd Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics
Thesis supervisor: Tracy Slatyer
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 Ph.D. in physics from MIT in 1954.
2016 Sergio Vazquez Prize

Lina Necib (Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics)
Thesis supervisor: Jesse Thaler
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

Lina Necib (Theoretical Nuclear and Particle Physics. Thesis supervisor: Jesse Thaler) received a Sherman Fairchild Postdoctoral Fellowship at the California Institute of Technology.

Nicholas Rodd (Theoretical Particle Physics. Thesis supervisor: Tracy Slatyer) was awarded the 2017 Price Prize in Cosmology and AstroParticle Physics of The Ohio State University for his research “on the structure and experimental signatures associated with beyond the standard model phenomena.”


Quntao Zhuang (Quantum Information. Thesis supervisor: Jefferey H. Shapiro) was awarded the 2016-2017 Claude E. Shannon Research Assistantship of the MIT Research Laboratory of Electronics.