UCLA
Chemistry & Biochemistry
Graduation Ceremony

Saturday, June 17, 2023
“UCLA is where aspirations take root, a wellspring of motivation and direction. It holds a special place in my heart and continues to be a home away from home. I feel immense pride in being a Bruin.”.

Omar K. Farha is the Charles E. and Emma H. Morrison Professor in Chemistry at Northwestern University, an Executive Editor for ACS Applied Materials & Interfaces, and President of NuMat Technologies. His current research spans diverse areas of chemistry and materials science ranging from energy to defense-related challenges. Specifically, his research focuses on the rational design of metal-organic frameworks (MOFs) for applications in sensing, catalysis, storage, separations, and water purification. His research accomplishments have been recognized by several awards and honors including election as a fellow of the European Academy of Sciences, the Kuwait Prize, the Japanese Society of Coordination Chemistry International Award for Creative Work, the Royal Society of Chemistry Environment, Sustainability and Energy Division Early Career Award, the American Chemical Society Satinder Ahuja Award for Young Investigators in Separation Science, and ACS ENFL Emerging Researcher Award. In addition, an award was established by the Department of Chemistry at Northwestern University in his honor: the Omar Farha Award for Research Leadership, “awarded for stewardship, cooperation and leadership in the finest pursuit of research in chemistry,” and given annually to an outstanding research scientist working in the department. Prof. Farha has more than 600 peer-reviewed publications, holds 17 patents, 88,000 citations, an h-index of 144 (google Scholar), and has been named a “Highly Cited Researcher” from 2014 to 2022. Prof. Farha is also one of the top chemists in the world (Research.com). Prof. Farha is the co-founder and president of NuMat Technologies, the first company to commercialize an engineered system-level product enabled by Metal-Organic Framework Materials.
ORDER OF CEREMONY

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
Neil K. Garg, Department Chair

CONFERRAL OF ALUMNI AWARD
Miguel A. García-Garibay, Dean
UCLA College of Letters & Science
Division of Physical Sciences

COMMENCEMENT ADDRESS
Omar K. Farha

GRADUATE STUDENT DISSERTATION AWARDS

PRESENTATION OF MASTER OF SCIENCE CANDIDATES
Neil K. Garg, Department Chair
Ellen M. Sletten, Vice Chair of Graduate Education

HOODING OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY CANDIDATES
Mentors

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

PRESENTATION OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE CANDIDATES
Anne Hong-Hermesdorf & Hung V. Pham

CLOSING REMARKS
Neil K. Garg, Department Chair
GRADUATE STUDENT DISSERTATION AWARDS

CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION DISSERTATION AWARD
Ailun Huang
Angel Mendoza
Yi Shen
Anthony Spearman
Stephanie Tenney

DANIEL E. ATKINSON AND CHARLES A. WEST DISSERTATION AWARD
Jiahui Lu

DONALD J. CRAM DISSERTATION AWARD
Andrew Kelleghan

ELECTRATECT DISSERTATION PRIZE
Katie Anne Spence
Danlei Xiang

GEORGE GREGORY DISSERTATION AWARD
Glareh Natalie Kashanchi
Sanghyun J. Park

MAJETI-ALAPATI DISSERTATION AWARD
Morris J. Dweck
Milauni Mehta

JAMES D. McCULLOUGH DISSERTATION AWARD
Austin Bailey
Xueying Chang
Shreya Kiritbhai Patel

EVELYN PAN DISSERTATION AWARD
Shijie Deng
Zach Hern
Dr. Yuh Guo Pan Organic Dissertation Award
Cesar Arturo Garcia

Trueblood Dissertation Award
Patricia Poths
Daniel D. Robertson
Ashley Shin

Upjohn Graduate Dissertation Award
Charlene Zarah Salamat
Tianyang (Sunny) Yan
MASTER OF SCIENCE CANDIDATES

James Joon Kim
Advisor: Jose Rodriguez
Structural and molecular characterization of prion proteins

Russell Nakasone
Advisor: Louis Bouchard
Cell Population Dynamics Monitored Under Various Flow Conditions

Jason Zhu
Advisor: Richard Kaner
Functionalized Carbon Nanodots for Energy Storage Applications
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY CANDIDATES

Austin Bailey
Advisor: Justin Caram
Tuning Cyanine Dye J-aggregate Photophysics via Self-Assembly

Xueying Chang
Advisor: Richard Kaner
Development of Conducting Polymer Hybrid Materials for Advanced Supercapacitive Energy Storage

Kathleen Kuo Chen
Advisors: Amy Rowat & Timothy Deming
Chemical and biological advances towards efficient adipose tissue production for cultured meat

Morris J. Dweck
Advisor: Patrick Harran
Proginines, JBIR-141 and Surveying the Computational Landscape of OFCP-Derived Macrobicycles

Carl Ferber
Advisor: Craig Merlic
Explorations in Cobalt Promoted Cyclocarbonylation, Intramolecular Cyclization of Vinyl Ethers, and Formation of Metal-Carbene Complexes with mRNA 5’-Cap Analogs

Maria Flores
Advisor: Jose Rodriguez
Molecular Snapshots of the Mammalian Prion CPEB3

Cesar Arturo Garcia
Advisor: Ellen Sletten
Development of Shortwave Infrared Polymethine Fluorophores Towards Targeted Biomedical Imaging

Zachary Gvildys
Advisor: Robijn Bruinsma
A Multiscale Approach to Understanding How RNA Characteristics Affect RNA-Protein Binding
Zach Hern  
Advisor: Paula Diaconescu  
*Adding potential to redox-switchable polymerization reactions*

Ailun Huang  
Advisor: Richard Kaner  
*Design of Vanadium Oxide/Graphene Composite Electrodes for Aqueous Energy Storage Systems*

Glareh Natalie Kashanchi  
Advisor: Sarah Tolbert  
*Nanostructuring Mesoporous Silica Materials for Controlling the Heat Flow of Buildings and Reducing Energy Consumption Required for Space Heating and Cooling*

Andrew Kelleghan  
Advisor: Neil Garg  
*Harnessing Strained Cyclic Intermediates to Generate Complex Scaffolds*

Woojin Lee  
Advisors: Kendall Houk & Hosea Nelson  
*Exploring Reaction Mechanisms of Short-Lived Carbocation and Radical Intermediates via Synergetic Modern Computational Methods and Collaborative Experiments*

Jiahui Lu  
Advisor: David Eisenberg  
*Structural studies of functional and pathogenic amyloid fibrils*

Milauni Mehta  
Advisor: Neil Garg  
*Studies Pertaining to Amide C–N Bond Activation and Strained Heterocyclic Allene Reactivity*

Angel Mendoza  
Advisor: Patrick Harran  
*Generation of Constrained Fluorinated Peptidomimetic Macrobicycles*

Hayden Montgomery  
Advisors: Alexander Spokoyny & Heather Maynard  
*Organometallic Au(III) S-Arylation Reagents for the Rapid and Efficient Synthesis of Biomolecule-Polymer Conjugates*
Sanghyun J. Park  
Advisor: Benjamin Schwartz  
*How excess electrons are solvated in water and electrolyte solutions: mixed quantum/classical and ab initio studies*

Shreya Kiritbhai Patel  
Advisor: Sarah Tolbert  
*Solution-Processed Magnetic and Magnetolectric Materials for Low Power Device Applications*

Patricia Poths  
Advisor: Anastassia Alexandrova  
*The Role of Fluxionality in the Deactivation Processes of Supported Cluster Catalysts*

Logan Richards  
Advisor: Jose Rodriguez  
*Advancements in Electron Microscopy Enabling the Structural Characterization of the Amyloid Protein LECT2 and other Macromolecules*

Daniel D. Robertson  
Advisor: Sarah Tolbert  
*Understanding the role of atomic and nanoscale structure in fast-charging electrode materials*

Charlene Zarah Salamat  
Advisor: Sarah Tolbert  
*The Structure-Function Relationship of Chemically and Electrochemically Doped Semiconducting Polymer*

Natalie Alice Schibrowsky  
Advisor: Jose Rodriguez  
*Structural and biochemical studies of cell-grown Cry11Ba insecticidal protein crystals*

Yi Shen  
Advisors: Paula Diaconescu & Chong Liu  
*Unlocking the potential of metal complexes supported by ferrocene-based ligands*

Anthony V. Sica  
Advisor: Justin Caram  
*Slicing and Dicing the Photon Stream as a Photophysical Probe and Imaging Methodology*
Katie Anne Spence
Advisor: Neil Garg
Merging Metals and Strained Intermediates

Mikayla Ferrer Tan
Advisor: Heather Maynard
Stimulus-Responsive Linkers in Smart Carriers of Bioactive Molecules

Stephanie Tenney
Advisor: Justin Caram
Photophysical and Structural Properties of CdTe and HgTe Semiconductor Nanoplatelets
Arising from their Two-Dimensional Morphology

Danlei Xiang
Advisor: Chong Liu
Electrocatalytic Ambient Alkane Functionalization

Tianyang (Sunny) Yan
Advisor: Keriann Backus
Novel Approaches for Enhanced Chemoproteomic Profiling of the Human Cysteinome

Tianren Yu
Advisor: Thomas Mason
Pre-Assembly of Shape-Designed Colloidal Crystals and Polymers in Fluctuating Brownian Monolayers
UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT AWARDS

ACS Award for Outstanding Senior in Inorganic Chemistry
Zhaozong Wang

ACS Award for Outstanding Senior in Organic Chemistry
Elaine Chao

ACS Award for Outstanding Senior in Physical Chemistry
Abigail Chapman

The American Institute of Chemists Student Award
Gray Carson

Daniel E. Atkinson and Charles A. West Commencement Prize in Metabolic Biochemistry
Alexia Andrikopoulos
Cameron Flowers
Ashley Holtz
Anna Tran
Darren Wijaya
Nicole Zag

Susan Elizabeth Baumgarten Award for Excellence in Science Education
Seohyun “Suzy” Moon

The Maria Rebecca and Maureen Bellettini Award
Riley Ann Danna
Tracie C. Luu
Haiying “Victoria” Zheng

Dr. Ravi and Aparna Bikkina Family Commencement Award
Palak Jayesh Jariwala
THE DOLORES CANNON SOUTHAM COMMENCEMENT AWARD
Ryan Lamkin
   Eric Lin
Magdalena Polite
Ethan Shi
Lauren Tan
Jason Zhu

RAMSEY COMMENCEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
Yang “Miranda” Li

RAMSEY COMMENCEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH
Varit Chantranuwathana
   Mason Cooper

RAMSEY COMMENCEMENT AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN RESEARCH & ACADEMICS
Hafez Etemad
   Catherine Li
   Samantha Vi-Tang

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   Alejandro Agustin Hernandez
   Palak Jayesh Jariwala
   Tracie C. Luu
   Rachel Ma
   Jacob K. Newman
   Jasmine Tzeng
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Xiangyin Zhao++
Haiying "Victoria" Zheng++
Haixia Zhong++
Olivia Zhou++
Jason Zhu*

++ Departmental Highest Honors
+ Departmental Honors
* Departmental Scholars
Φ Phi Beta Kappa
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