



ACS Editor Goodbye Letter 2018

April in Pittsburgh is finally transitioning into spring time, it seems—I'm writing this underneath a beautiful blue sky, the first we've had in what feels like ages. Another April, another spring, means that a generation of students will be leaving this campus, and a new one will soon be coming to replace it. I'd like to think that we've all grown up a bit- a year older, a little more mature, a little more adult. (Ok, maybe not all. Some of us, at least ☺).

During this time of year, it's easy to get swept up in the excitement of the future- of vacation and traveling, of internships in new places, of escaping from the beat of classes and the semester. But I also think it's important to think and reflect on this past year: on the experiences you've had, both good and bad, on the people you've met and the people you've lost, on the small things that you might not think to reflect on in a year or two. Complaining about Market food, the fun of commiserating with friends during the crush of finals week, the successes you had in your research, the feeling of that success. Each year that passes is a smaller and smaller fraction of your life—time moves faster, things begin to blur together, and the past becomes a distant image, a vague feeling of a memory. Even if eventually you lose those memories of the little things later in life, at least you'll have cherished them now. It's kind of depressing, but it's an inevitable part of growing older.

As a graduating senior, I'm saying goodbye to the four best and worst years of my life and plunging into the unknown that is adulthood. It's a bittersweet milestone, dreaded and anticipated in equal proportion by everybody that passes it. Losing friends and making new ones. Moving away from our families to start our own. Learning from those who came before us so we can teach those who will come after. To all of you who are in the same boat as I, cheers to the memories we've made, and cheers to the memories that we haven't made, at least not yet-- the memories our post graduate future holds.

As I said before, and this goes for those of you sticking around for a few more years as well, cherish the highs and the lows of your youth. Go out and push your boundaries. Experience new foods and cultures, meet people from backgrounds different than yours, help others whenever you're able to. Make as many happy memories as possible so that, in years and years, when your oldest memories have faded into faint impressions of emotions, you can look back on your time here at Pitt, your time as a young adult, with fondness, contentment, and without regret.

Congratulations to the class of 2018! For the last time, thank you!

Stephanie Liu
Newsletter Co-editor

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Moonlight

David Pilsk and Brandi Williams

On behalf of the Senior Affairs Committee,

Throughout the last four years, we have labeled ourselves as students. While our journeys as students have not all been the same, there is one thing we have all witnessed to lead us to this very point: failure.

Whether we admit it to ourselves or not, we have all failed somewhere along our undergraduate tenure. We do not want to highlight the difficult times when we hung our heads low after receiving 45% on exams or completely ruining a reaction in lab. When we think back to the times we fell inferior to our expectations, we must understand every setback endured led to a new opportunity for change. Whether this was as simple as switching to an afternoon lab because the 8 a.m. section clearly wasn't going to work or nervously changing your career goal for the fourth time, our disappointments resulted in action.

These moments of failure required adjustments. While they may have been frightening at the time, they made us stronger future professionals. We can now begin to move forward from our past failures. We can use what we have learned and apply them to our futures just in case we fail again.

Just as we graduate from this institution with many achievements, we know the path to success is not linear and doesn't always flow according to plan. We can carry these skills of adaptability into our future endeavors, even if the task at hand is harder than raising a grade from an F to a B. As every failure we faced in Chevron led us to become the individuals we are now, our future setbacks will shape us into prosperous professionals.

We should not be afraid to make more mistakes in our futures; mistakes are inevitable. No matter how frustrating a task may be, the most disappointing thing we could do is give up. If our failed exams have now turned into rejected job offers, we still have to remain persistent. Let's celebrate the fact that we made it through one of the most challenging fields of study, but we cannot let this be our journey's final triumph.

Though as we enter the world outside of undergraduate life we may not know exactly what path will lead to success, we should not avoid what may be perceived as hard. We have learned about d-orbital splitting and nucleophilic attack, but more importantly we know that we can overcome even that darkest of hours.

We may have stumbled along the way, but what matters more is that we made it through.

Congratulations Class of 2018!

Congratulations and best wishes

to our

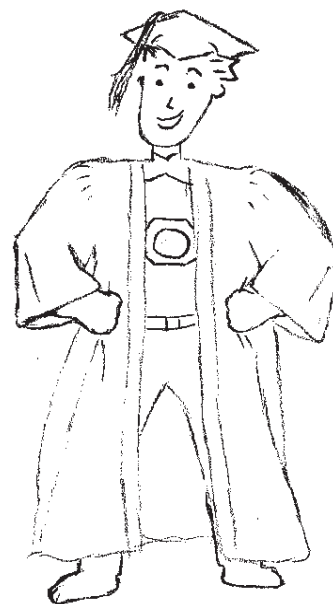
2018

Undergraduate Chemistry

Graduates!

From your friends in the Chemistry

Undergraduate Program Office





Congratulations

2018 Spring Term Award Winners



The Lowy Scholarship.....	<i>Matthew S. Carnevali</i> <i>Lauren L. Combs</i>
The Esther and Tobias Dunkelberger Memorial Scholarship.....	<i>Hanna Brubaker</i>
The Organic Division Undergraduate Research Fellowship.....	<i>Lauren L. Combs</i>
The McKeever Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship.....	<i>Morgan N. Cyron</i>
The Lubrizol Scholarship.....	<i>Dennis K. Doyle</i> <i>Daniel S. Mihalko</i>
The Teplitz Memorial Scholarship.....	<i>Stefan J. Kaliszuk</i> <i>Eric T. McElhinny</i>
The Rita R. and David A. Rossi, Sr. Scholarship.....	<i>Morgan N. Cyron</i> <i>Ryan J. DeKorte</i>
The Richard F. Zarilla Award.....	<i>Jevin M. Jupena</i> <i>Hannah E. Piston</i>
The Silverman Prize	<i>Katherine M. Otto</i>
The American Institute of Chemists Award.....	<i>Adam D. Leventry</i>
The SACP College Award	<i>Caitlyn J. Choe</i>
The Mary Louise Theodore Prize	<i>Molly Gallagher</i> <i>Alexandria L. Gerber</i> <i>Ryan D. Gilbert</i> <i>Madeline M. Kash</i> <i>Brock M. Nelson</i> <i>David W. Newhouse</i> <i>Grace Rong</i> <i>Andrew J. Warburton</i>
The Phillips Medal	<i>Claire C. Chu</i> <i>Ian M. Harmatz</i>



Green Chemistry

by: Andrew Warburton, *Green Chemistry Contributor*



Hi everyone! I hope you had a wonderful and relaxing Spring Break! It was well deserved after completing over half the semester. Can you believe it? The spring semester is nearly complete. For my graduating seniors out there, I want to personally extend my congrats to you. It's been quite a journey. Now is a time of jubilation and recollection. This fleeting experience of college is about to turn into one of the most amazing memories of your life! Make the most of it and keep up with the incredible friends you have made here. Whether it is graduate school, medical school, industry, gap year, research, peace corps, etc., I implore you to keep up with your friends. They will be your plinth onto which you can build your life and legacy – a support system to help you bounce back when you have fallen and celebrate when you have peaked.

To my juniors reading this article, I want to make sure you're not losing focus on what's important. Like the seniors, you probably have made some plans for after graduation and now is the time to prep yourself. If you're applying to graduate/medical school, get your personal statement ready and make sure all of your letter of rec writers are on-board. Good luck with your standardized tests. Remember, some of the best assets are students who have been in your position who can offer sagely advice. Don't get lost in the nitty gritty and keep the big picture in mind. Regardless of what path you end up taking, you'll get there and you'll be great at it!

To my underclassmen reading this article, congratulations on almost finishing another semester of college! It's incredible how fast the time flies. Make sure that you continue to do well in classes and start to think about what path you may want to consider in the future. Talk to people, shadow professionals, and join some clubs to stay active and involved!

You may have noticed that this article is a bit different from my previous Green Chemistry articles, in so far as it lacks much chemistry. That's because this is my finale – the last article I will write for the Chemistry department here at Pitt. I've had an amazing journey here and I do not have enough space on this page to thank all the people who have helped me, but I'll give it a shot. Thank you to all my professors who have taught and dealt with me in class. If you know me in person, I'm sure you know I can be a pain in the ass. Thank you to all my advisors for giving me the amazing guidance that has helped me gain admittance into medical school. Without them, I would be as focused as a demagnetized compass. Thank you to all my friends for dealing with me for these three years when I succeeded and when failed time and time again – for being so amazingly kind and understanding. I honestly don't know where I'd be without them. Finally, thank you to my parents for continuing to believe in me all these years. I owe everything I have done to them.

As this article concludes, I want each of you to thank someone who has made your college experience wonderful. Many of you may not know how hard George, Flo (Regina), Deb, and so many other faculty work in the chemistry department to bring you these articles, so I want to extend my personal gratitude to them as well. Be sure to thank them in person! My concluding words of wisdom are: keep your head up, stay humble, and finish this year strong.