2019-2020 College Scholarship Recipients

ALFRED AND ISABEL BADER SCHOLARS

Alfred Bader is one of the founders of the Sigma-Aldrich Company. Alfred and Isabel Bader have generously contributed to Project SEED over the years. In 1992 their support started the Summer II program and since 1997, supported the Project SEED college scholarships.

Aysha Zaher graduated from Elizabeth High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Salvatore Coniglio at Kean University, Aysha worked on a research project titled "Group Summer Scholars Research Program-CCR1." Aysha will attend Rutgers University - New Brunswick and major in Chemistry in hopes to become a Neurosurgeon in the future.

Bawi Sung is a graduate of Southport High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Bill Gilhooly at Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science, Bawi worked on a research project titled "Using Geochemistry to Study the Microbial Ecology of Lakes." Bawi is majoring in Biochemistry at Indiana University Bloomington.

Calvin Nguyen is a graduate of Capital High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Kevin Ausman at Boise State University, Calvin worked on a research project titled "Stability of Aqueous Buckminsterfullerene Colloids." Calvin is pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering at Arizona State University.

Camryn Franke is a graduate from Washington Tech High School and participated in Project SEED in 2017. At University of Minnesota under the guidance of Romas Kazlauskas, she worked on a research project titled "Characterization of Ancestral Enzymes." Camryn is attending Stanford University studying Biochemistry.

Chelsea Sims is a graduate of Dollarway High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Chelsea worked on a project titled "Effects of Free Radicals on the Stability of Photoelectrodes during Photoelectrochemical Water" under the guidance of Grant Wangila at University of Arkansas, where she will also attend college and major in Chemistry.

Chui Yi Ho graduated from Lowell High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. She worked on a research project titled "Engineering Enzymes for Biomass Degradation toward Biofuels" under the guidance of Sarah Throne at United States Department of Agriculture Western Research Center. Chui Yi is majoring in Biochemistry at University of California, Davis.
Claire Gray is a graduate of Northview High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Ajith Karunarathne at University of Toledo, Claire worked on a research project titled "Measurement of Retinal and Sunlight Induced Photodamage to Cells.” Claire is majoring in Chemistry at Brown University where she hopes to conduct academic research.

Cole Strekal graduated from Parma Senior High and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Yaorong Zheng at Kent State University, Cole worked on a research project titled "Mitochondria-Targeted Platinum-Based Anticancer Agents Designed to Eliminate Cancer Stem Cells and Overcome Drug Resistance in Ovarian Cancer.” Cole is majoring in Chemistry at Ohio State University and wants to work in drug research.

Cylah Bailey is a graduate of James M. Bennett High. Previously, she participated in Project SEED in 2017 at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. In 2018, under the guidance of James Fedchak at National Institute of Standards and Technology, Thermodynamic Metrology Group, Cylah worked on a research project titled "Absorption and Outgassing Properties of Materials.” Cylah is majoring in Chemistry at Stevenson University.

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Diana Angeles Ramos is a graduate of Tigard High School and participated in Project SEED in 2017. Diana worked on a research project titled "Bioactivity-Guided Purification of Active Compounds from Common Plants” under the guidance of Angela Hoffman at University of Portland. Diana is majoring in Biochemistry at Portland State University and plans to pursue a MD/PhD in Biochemistry.

Emily Xu is a graduate of Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science, and Technology and participated in Project SEED in 2016. Darla worked on a research project titled "Computing with Molecules" under the guidance of Jennifer Chaytor at Saginaw Valley State University. Darla is pursuing a degree in Materials Science and Engineering at Michigan State University. She plans to pursue a career in research.
Feven Welde graduated from Brownsburg High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Partha Basu at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science, Feven worked on a research project titled "Expression and Purification of Periplasmic Nitrate Reductase.” Feven is majoring in Biochemistry at Johns Hopkins University and hopes to move on to medical school or pursue a MD/PhD.

Ihuoma Ihejirika participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Xi Chen at University of California, Davis, she worked on the research project “Chemoenzymatic Synthesis of Carbohydrates.” She is attending UC Davis and majoring in Biochemistry.

Giancarlo Irizzary is a graduate of Colegio Marista de Guaynabo and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Lilian Plotkin at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Medicine, Giancarlo worked on a research project titled "Study of Bone Cells in the Absence of FMR1, a Molecule Associated with Autistic Spectrum Syndrome" which he presented at the ACS National Meeting in Fall 2018. Giancarlo is majoring in Chemistry at Providence College.

Juan Rodriguez is a graduate of Escuela Secundaria Especializada en Ciencias, Matemáticas y Tecnología and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Arthur Tinoco at University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Juan worked on a research project titled "Stability of Peptide-Conjugated Anticancer Ti(IV) Complexes (PCA-TiC) in a Human Serum Protease." In addition, he participated in the Intel International Science and Engineering Far and the China Adolescent Science and Technology Innovation Contest, winning 2nd place in chemistry. Juan is majoring in Chemistry at Stanford University.

Leilani Garcia is a graduate of Union City High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Leilani worked on a research project titled "Exploring Alkali Promotion for Carbon Dioxide Activation and Catalyst Coke Suppression" under the guidance of Elaine Gomez at Columbia University. Leilani is majoring in Chemical Engineering at New Jersey Institute of Technology and is interested in pursuing a PhD.

Maelah Robinson-Castillo is a graduate of Centennial High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Sandra Bonetti at Colorado State University - Pueblo, Maelah worked on a research project titled "Effects of Zn and Cu on Fungal Hydrolase Activities" as well as learned 23 new chemistry techniques. Maelah is pursuing a degree in Chemistry and Molecular Biology at University of Denver.
**Maliha Yeasmin** is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Catalin Martin at Ramapo College of New Jersey, Maliah worked on a research project titled "Deposition of Monolayers of Metallic Nanoparticles Using the Langmuir-Blodgett Technique." Maliah is majoring in Environmental Engineering at Rutgers University - New Brunswick where she wants to pursue molecular-level research.

**Mohamed Naji** graduated from Bloomington North High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Mohamed worked on a research project titled "Electrochemical Paper-based Devices for Ions Quantification" under the guidance of Frederique Deiss at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Science. Mohamed is majoring in Chemical Engineering at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis.

**Nikki Dodd** is a graduate of North Central High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Hiroki Yokota at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis School of Engineering and Technology, Nikki worked on a research project titled "Analysis of Bone-Tumor Interactions Using Mouse Mammary Tumor Cells.” Nikki is majoring in Biochemistry at Indiana University Purdue University Indianapolis and hopes to pursue a MD/PhD program.
ASHLAND SCHOLARS

Ashland Inc. is a leading global company which provides specialty chemicals, technologies and expertise to customers worldwide. Since 2011, Ashland Inc. has sponsored Project SEED alumni

Shun Shueh is a graduate of Centennial High School and participated in Project SEED in 2017. Under the guidance of Takashi Tsukamoto at Johns Hopkins University, Shun worked on a research project titled "Drug Discovery Driven by Chemistry." Shun is majoring in Chemical Engineering at University of Maryland. She plans to research environmental sustainability.

Sokobe Chuong graduated from Bear Creek High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Jerry Tsai at University of the Pacific, Sokobe worked on a research project titled "Effects of Protein Sequence on Protein Structure through Modern Molecular Biology Techniques." Sokobe is majoring in Chemical Engineering at California State University, Long Beach.

BAYER SCHOLARS

The Bayer Foundation contributed to the Project SEED Endowment. Bayer is a research based company with major businesses in health care and life sciences as well as chemicals and imaging technologies. Since 1993, Bayer has supported Project SEED alumni.

Prachee Roy Mazumder graduated from Cambridge Rindge and Latin School. Under the guidance of Joshua Sacher at Broad Institute, Prachee Roy worked on a research project titled "Selective Sodium Channel Modulators for Neuropsychiatric disease." Due to her experience with medicinal chemistry, Prachee Roy has decided to major in Biochemistry at Colby College.
FOSBINDER SCHOLARS

The Estate of Elizabeth Ernest Fosbinder, wife of late ACS member, Dr. Russel J. Fosbinder stipulated the establishment of an endowment in honor of Dr. Fosbinder to fund college scholarships for graduated of Project SEED. Since 2004, the endowment has supported Project SEED alumni.

Zainab Abolade Lawson graduated from George Bush High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Andrew Barron at Rice University, Zainab Abolade worked on a research project titled "Interactions of Nanomaterials with Plants." Zainab Abolade is majoring in Biochemistry at Texas A&M University.

Zek Kelly graduated from East High School and participated in Project SEED in 2018. Under the guidance of Matthew Cranswick at Colorado State University-Pueblo, Zek worked on a research project titled "Modeling the Activity of Mo/W-Containing Nitrate Reductase of Pyrobaculum Aerophilium." Zek is majoring in Chemistry at Colorado School of Mines.

ULLYOT SCHOLARS

Glenn and Barbara Ullyot. Glenn Ullyot worked for Smith, Kline & French Laboratories. He was a major contributor to the discovery and manufacture of new drugs to the medical world. Barbara Ullyot had a management career at ACS and was a valuable member. Glenn and Barbara provided college scholarships to Project SEED students over their lifetime.

Oluwapelumi Oguntade is a graduate of Rufus King High School. Under the guidance of Blake Hill at Medical College of Wisconsin, Oluwapelumi worked on a research project titled "Protein Residue Identification and Research." Oluwapelumi is pursuing a degree in Chemistry at Marquette University and hopes to become a translational scientist in the future.
CIBA SPECIALTY CHEMICALS SCHOLARS

CIBA Specialty Chemicals was a leading global chemical company acquired by BASF in 2008. The Ciba Foundation made a generous legacy gift to the American Chemical Society to establish the Ciba Specialty Chemicals Scholars Endowment, a new component added to the Project SEED college scholarship program, which expanded the one-year Project SEED college scholarships to a three-year renewable scholarship. As of today, 13 of the 21 awardees have graduated in the chemical sciences.

Richard Nwakamma is attending Emory University, majoring in Chemistry. Richard is part of the honor society Phi Eta Sigma at his university. His goals are to pursue a Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry. He wants to do his research in new drug development.

John Rezk is attending Princeton University, majoring in Chemistry. John undertook a summer research project exploring electrochemical carbon dioxide reduction. His goals are to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry or Chemical and biological Engineering.

LOCONTI SCHOLARS

The Joseph D. Loconti Endowment is a new addition to the scholarship offerings for Project SEED. Joseph Loconti was a 78-year member of ACS and contributed annually from 2009 to 2013. He was a professor at Cornell University (1946) and founded the Paper Thermometer Company in 1953. Upon his passing in early 2019, he bequeathed $500,000 towards both Project SEED summer research fellowships and college scholarships. $450,000 of it was used to create the Joseph D. Loconti Endowment. Starting in 2020, this renewable scholarship will be issued each year to an incoming freshman, and will continue through their senior year.

Mirka Ortiz is attending New Jersey City University, majoring in Chemistry. Mirka is currently a student researcher in the organic chemistry department. Mirka’s goal is to pursue a Ph.D. in Chemistry and one day work for a pharmaceutical company.