

## 2012 Iota Sigma Pi Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry

### Katerina Marie Korch



Ms. Katerina Korch is an exceptional undergraduate chemistry student from Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania. She has numerous research experiences to her credit, and is a co-author on two publications, one in *Nanoscale*, the other in *Nano LIFE*, as a result of her participation in an NSF-sponsored REU at Clemson University in the lab of Dr. Ya-Ping Sun. In 2011, Korch was an Amgen Scholar in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at UCLA, working with Dr. Craig Merlic on the synthesis of allenes and their use as ligands in copper(II)-promoted couplings of vinyl boronate esters and alcohols. At Juniata, Korch has been actively pursuing her research interests in organic synthesis with Dr. David Reingold, who describes her as “one of my best collaborators in my 33 years of mentoring undergraduates.” Korch has served the Juniata chemistry program as a tutor, a teaching assistant, and a laboratory preparation assistant. Additionally she has been an active participant in Juniata’s well-known chemistry outreach program. Korch describes her work in science outreach as “one of the most rewarding aspects of my brief science career” and aims to help “inspire a younger generation of girls to pursue scientific careers.” Professor Richard Hark, Chair of the Chemistry Department at Juniata, is assured in Korch’s bright future in chemistry and describes her as an “outstanding individual... who is so obviously talented in so many areas.” Outside the lab, Korch is an award-winning cellist, playing with the Juniata College Orchestra, string quartet, and honors cello ensemble. Korch plans to pursue the PhD in chemistry and was very recently notified that she is a recipient of an NSF Graduate Fellowship.