

**2015 Undergraduate Excellence Award
Sean S. Feng
University of California, Irvine**



Sean Feng has a clear passion for synthetic organic chemistry as well as teaching others. Sean beautifully describes her early passion for answering scientific questions at the age of 8 and persistence in pursuing a degree in Chemistry. She followed her passion even when the adults and role models in her life tried to dissuade her as a female from a career choice in a rigorous physical science. Sean's nominator, Professor Chris Vanderwal, writes: "Sean is as smart, motivated, and energetic as undergraduates come. She has an incredible love for organic synthesis, and she is spending most of this, her senior year, taking the full complement of our challenging graduate courses in Organic Chemistry. Not surprisingly, Sean has done exceptionally well in those classes, as well as A grades in her upper-division Organic Chemistry Laboratory and in Honors Undergraduate Research." Professor James S. Nowick writes: "While still a freshman, she sought out and joined the UCI Chemistry Outreach Program. Very few undergraduates participated seriously in the program from their freshman year onwards. In fall 2014, Sean took my graduate-level Organic Spectroscopy class. It has the reputation of being the toughest course that our organic chemistry graduate students take. Students are expected to master many aspects of infrared (IR) spectroscopy, mass spectrometry, one- and two-dimensional NMR spectroscopy, as well as conformational analysis and computer-based molecular modeling. Sean was among the very top students in the class, ahead of most of the graduate students, and earned an A for her stellar performance." There is little doubt that Sean will be a role model for generations of young aspiring scientists and the ISP Awards Committee is proud to choose her for the Undergraduate Excellence Award.