Iota Sigma Pi gives 2021 Centennial Award to Dr. Maria Schroeder of US Naval Academy

Iota Sigma Pi, the National Organization for Women in Chemistry, has selected Dr. Maria Schroeder, Professor at the US Naval Academy, to receive the 2021 Centennial Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Dr. Schroeder obtained her B.S. in Chemistry and Mathematics from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor and PhD in Analytical Chemistry from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is currently Professor of Chemistry at the US Naval Academy. She has been invited to participate in the organization’s Triennial Convention in 2023.

Dr. Schroeder is a highly talented and accomplished educator with over 25 years of experience. She was awarded the E. Emmet Reid Award in Chemistry Teaching at Small Colleges (ACS) and the Civilian Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching at the US Naval Academy, the institution’s highest award. She teaches a wide variety of courses starting from General Chemistry to upper-level courses in the Academy’s ACS-accredited Chemistry major program. Her nominating letter states “Prof. Maria Schroeder is a truly outstanding teacher, scholar, and supporter of education in the chemical sciences. She has a direct and positive impact on her students through her dedication to their learning and their development”.

Dr. Schroeder has also been heavily involved in curriculum development and is always in search of better and more efficient ways to teach. She played a vital role in developing the new Integrated Laboratory curriculum for chemistry majors which enabled students to become more engaged in undergraduate research. This work resulted in two Journal of Chemical Education publications and a chapter in an ACS Symposium Series book. She has also participated in a pilot study of an Atoms First curriculum and is currently involved in evaluating the use of Clickers (interactive technology that facilitates student’s self-assessment) in freshman chemistry.

Dr. Schroeder is strongly committed to undergraduate research as a basis of project-based learning. She has successfully mentored over 30 students and since 2012 she has served as Associate Director of Midshipman Research (ADMR) and has managed all research programs at the Naval Academy. The most telling are her student’s support letters that demonstrate the strong impact she makes on them and their learning of chemistry. As one letter states “The results of Professor Schroeder’s guidance are unmatched and speak for themselves. I, a student who had not taken a single Chemistry class for four years, managed to turn chemistry from a forgotten remnant of the past into a strength…It does not surprise me to see that all my company mates who had the privilege of being in Professor Schroeder’s class scored the highest marks among our entire company”.

Dr. Maria Schroeder at the US Naval Academy.
Message from the National President

Last March the Covid situation forced our National Council to change our much-delayed Triennial Convention to a virtual format. During the two weeks before the business meetings were held, we had a series of online events, including presentations by our 2017-2020 awardees. Our Invited National Honorary Member, Noble Laureate Frances Arnold, attracted the largest audience. Thanks to our Hostess Chapter, Calcium of Irvine, CA, we also had a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion panel and an Elevator Pitch Competition.

The Pre-Convention National Council Meeting was held a week before the “real” convention. The actual Triennial Convention was held on July 17 and 18, and included delegates from most of the Chapter, National Council Members, and several Past National Presidents. We met on Zoom for 1.5-hour sessions with half-hour breaks.

When we decided that the convention would have to be virtual, we were naturally unsure whether it would work. Thanks to all the participants, it was amazingly successful! Despite the limitations of Zoom, they fully participated in both the sessions and the committee meetings.

The committees were especially productive. Each one made such thoughtful recommendations! National Council will try to fulfill them, but we will need your help. For example, the committees suggested that there be more contact between National Council and the Chapters. National Council is currently working on a series of meetings with the Chapters. We also will set up a Social Media Committee with members from each Chapter.

The Delegates really made the convention work. During a time when several chapters have become inactive, it was reassuring that we still have such active and supportive members. National Council provided leadership for the committees and participated in all aspects of the Convention. They helped us plan the meetings and then implemented the plans. The Past National Presidents contributed their experience and wisdom and helped the meetings run smoothly.

We look forward to working with you all for the remainder of this triennium and for many years in the future.

Anne
Anne K. Taylor, Ph.D.
ispncpresidnt@gmail.com
The 33rd Triennial Convention was Held Virtually in July 2021

Iota Sigma Pi held their triennial convention in a virtual format over several weeks in July. The convention had been postposed in 2020 due to the quarantine and travel restrictions in place as a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic. There had been hopes that by postponing the convention, we could get together in person during 2021. However, an in-person meeting was still not possible in the summer of 2021.

The National Council had their pre-convention meeting on July 10 and discussed Council business and goals of the convention. In the evening on July 8, the Centennial award winners and Agnes Fay Morgan award winners held a panel discussion on “Trends in Chemistry Teaching and Research.” It was a very informative discussion and was well attended.

Our triennial award winners presented on the evening of July 14. Debbie Crans, the Violet Diller Award for Professional Excellence winner, discussed her research and career path. Our National Honorary Member, Vicki Grassian, also presented her life story and research.
The highlight of the Convention was the research presentation by our Invited National Honorary Member, Nobel Laureate Frances Arnold. She gave us a look into her personal life discussing her career path and strategies for maintaining work/life balance. She spoke about the moment she learned she won the Nobel Prize and her guest spot on the television show “The Big Bang Theory.”
Motions Made by Convention Committees

Chapter delegates complete most of the work of the convention in committee meetings. Each chapter delegate participated in one committee. This is where decisions regarding the next triennium are made. The following were motions made by the committees:

1. **Audit/Finance & Budget**

   We move to continue the *Chapter Mini-Grant* program, allowing a chapter to request up to $500 per triennium with a program maximum increased to $5000 per triennium up from $2500 per triennium.

   We move to donate $500 to [#BlackinChem](#) for Black Chemist Week to support female identifying chemists.

   We move that the Rules and Regulations are amended to include the Endowment Fund and Committee.

2. **Chapter Installations & Development**

   We move to create a national Diversity, Equity and Inclusion committee.

   We move to update the language used in the membership brochure to describe the requirements of membership to match the requirements dictated on the website (Article 1, Section 3 of the Rules and Regulations).

3. **Visibility & Publicity**

   We move that the National Council President appoint a Social Media Coordinator or Team to expand our presence at both the Chapter and National levels and help project our image.

4. **Long Range Planning**

   We move that a membership nomination system be created on the website.

   We move that each national council officer hold a social-based activity on Zoom or other virtual platform with the corresponding set of chapter officers. These National Officer-Chapter Officer meetings will take place no more than once per month.

### 2021- 2022 Annual Dues

Don’t forget that Iota Sigma Pi Dues for 2021-2022 were to be paid by June 15th if you are not a Lifetime member. We recommend paying dues via our webpage at https://www.iotasigmapi.org/ and use a credit card to pay your dues and/or make a donation. This is a secure transaction through PayPal. Once on the website, hover over “Membership” and click on “Update Info/Pay Dues”. You will be required to update your current contact information before being able to pay your dues. This helps us keep up to date with your current personal information. If you don’t have a sign-in for the new website, you will have to establish one first. Alternatively, you can send a check to the National Treasurer made out to Iota Sigma Pi.
Iota Sigma Pi, the National Honor Society for Women in Chemistry, Recognizes Outstanding Female High School Chemistry Students
by Tanya Hunter, Coordinator of Initiates and Supplies

In an effort to promote interest in chemistry among young women, Iota Sigma Pi has presented 49 female high school students with the “Outstanding Young Women in Chemistry” award. Recipients of the award show high academic achievement in chemistry. The award includes an official certificate issued by Iota Sigma Pi and recognition in the Iotan, the national publication of the Society.

The following students received the 2021 Outstanding Young Women in Chemistry Award:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>School</th>
<th>Student Name</th>
<th>School</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emma Aders</td>
<td>Unity High School</td>
<td>Allison Grace Matula</td>
<td>Plainfield East High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gabriela Ballance</td>
<td>Rio Lindo Adventist Academy</td>
<td>Caitlin McCane</td>
<td>Tri-Valley High School</td>
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<td>Jessica Marie Beck</td>
<td>Maine South High School</td>
<td>Meghan McCann</td>
<td>Woodstock North High School</td>
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<td>Ava Isabel Bennett</td>
<td>Christian Liberty Academy</td>
<td>Violet Grace McCool</td>
<td>Armstrong High School</td>
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<td>Reagan Bridges</td>
<td>Arapahoe High School</td>
<td>Ava McCune</td>
<td>Fairport High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anna Louise Buttell</td>
<td>Wheaton Warrenville South High School</td>
<td>Celia McDermott-Hinman</td>
<td>Libertyville High School</td>
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<td>Marti Candel</td>
<td>Lynbrook High School</td>
<td>Morgan Lillian Meaney</td>
<td>Manteno High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kylene Contreras</td>
<td>Peoria Heights High School</td>
<td>Alexa Sofia Mendoza</td>
<td>Denver School of the Arts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sahaja Danthurthey</td>
<td>Metea Valley High School</td>
<td>Mira Murthy</td>
<td>Glenbard South High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ellenna Divingnzzo</td>
<td>Papillion-LaVista South High School</td>
<td>Kalynda Newport</td>
<td>Windsor High School</td>
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<td>Anna Louise Erwin</td>
<td>Columbine High School</td>
<td>Quynh Nguyen</td>
<td>Walter Christian Academy</td>
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<td>Alexandra Espinosa</td>
<td>Aspire Benjamin Holt College Prep Academy</td>
<td>Taylor Olsen</td>
<td>Central High School</td>
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<td>Austin Riley Furr</td>
<td>Central Davidson High School</td>
<td>Marina O'Malley</td>
<td>Westmont High School</td>
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<td>Alyssa Brianna Garcia</td>
<td>Orestimba High School</td>
<td>Cassi Nicole Payne</td>
<td>Brownstone Jr/Sr High School</td>
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<td>Grace Alexandria Giacone</td>
<td>Triad High School</td>
<td>Daisy Regalado</td>
<td>Chicago Hope Academy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Viviana Beulah Glick</td>
<td>University of Chicago Laboratory Schools</td>
<td>Anne Reid</td>
<td>Grosse Pointe South High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Megan Harmon</td>
<td>Downers Grove South H.S.</td>
<td>Fatima Romo</td>
<td>Collinsville High School</td>
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<td>Karen Harrison</td>
<td>Castle Park High School</td>
<td>Graci Scharping</td>
<td>Cuba Middle-Senior High School</td>
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<td>Shiqi Huang</td>
<td>Mt. Lebanon High School</td>
<td>Hailey Schlicht</td>
<td>Pleasant Plains High School</td>
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<td>Destiny John</td>
<td>Montezuma Cortez High School</td>
<td>Megan Stein</td>
<td>D'Evelyn Jr/Sr High School</td>
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<td>Kyra Kapuscinski</td>
<td>Prospect High School</td>
<td>Samantha Grace Thompson</td>
<td>Dunlap High School</td>
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<td>Mavee Keeley</td>
<td>Mother McAuley High School</td>
<td>Sepideh Toshtzar</td>
<td>Marple Newtown High School</td>
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<td>Kaitlyn Jeana Kim</td>
<td>Ashland High School</td>
<td>Catherine Truong</td>
<td>Columbine High School</td>
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<td>Hyunjin Christina Lee</td>
<td>Conestoga High School</td>
<td>Elizabeth Watson</td>
<td>Vanguard College Preparatory School</td>
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<td>Madelyne Loeffel</td>
<td>Algonquin Regional High School</td>
<td>Jiayi Zhang</td>
<td>Catholic High School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cailey Alexandra Martinez</td>
<td>Coffee High School</td>
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Iota Sigma Pi Announces 2021 Student Award Winners
by Reiko Simmons, Director of Student Awards

Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship
Kate K Fieseler
Colorado State University

Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry.
Kajsa M. Williams
University of California, Los Angeles

Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research
Kate Anne Nicastri
The University of Wisconsin

Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship
Ahlenne Abreu
Smith College

Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry by a First Generation College Student
Briana Petrusa
Meredith College

One of the aims of Iota Sigma Pi is to provide recognition to outstanding women in chemistry. To meet this goal, we offer the following student awards:

- (G) Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research
- (UG) Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry
- (UG) Undergraduate Award for Excellence in Chemistry by a First Generation College Student
- (UG) Gladys Anderson Emerson Scholarship

Application deadline is February 15. See our website for details.
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