

The 2026 Organic Graduate Symposium

Friday, June 12, 2026 | 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM | Yoo Seminar & Conference Hall
(Collaboratory) Young Hall 4222C

9:00 AM *Breakfast/Coffee*

10:00 AM *Introduction by Prof. Ken Houk*

10:10 AM: **Brady Dehnert**

“Halodealkenylation: Ozonolysis Followed by Treatment with Fell And Halogenating Reagent Convert C(sp³)-C(sp²) Bonds to C(sp³)-Halide Bonds”

- Advisor: Prof. Ohyun Kwon
- Introducer: Elizabeth Croll

10:30 AM: **Aleksandras Lotuzas**

“Natural Products from Sea and Tea: Synthetic Approaches to Portimines and EGCG Analogs”

- Advisor: Prof. Patrick Harran
- Introducer: Anton El Khoury

10:50 AM: **Katie Zhu**

“Functional poly(2-oxazoline)s for drug delivery systems”

- Advisor: Prof. Ellen Sletten
- Introducer: Ethan Ng

11:10 AM: **Emma Greene**

“Convergent strategies towards bioactive natural products: Construction of the Portimine framework and uncatalyzed spiroketal synthesis”

- Advisor: Prof. Patrick Harran
- Introducer: Marcelo Mazariego

11:30 – 12:30 PM *Lunch Break*

12:30 PM: **Paige Kotowitz**

“Macromolecular crowding responsive poly(2-oxazoline)s”

- Advisor: Prof. Ellen Sletten
- Introducer: Prairie Hammer

12:50 PM: **Daniel Min**

“Development and Application of Machine Learning Techniques for Organic Chemistry”

- Advisor: Prof. Abigail Doyle
- Introducer: Glenn Nurwono

1:10 PM: **Gabriella Cooper**

“Template Driven Synthesis of Complex Polyheterocyclic Peptidomimetics”

- Advisor: Prof. Patrick Harran
- Introducer: Matthew Raeside

1:30 PM: **Qingyang Zhou**

“Structural and Dynamic Mechanism of Sequential Pericyclic Reactions Catalyzed by BruB”

- Advisor: Prof. Ken Houk
- Introducer: Wenyu Han

1:50 – 2:10 PM *Refreshment Break*

2:10 PM: **Jordan Gonzalez**

“Cyclic Allene Approach Toward Keramaphidin B”

- Advisor: Prof. Neil Garg
- Introducer: Georgia Scherer

2:30 PM: **Jeremy Dworkin**

“Ozonolysis and Dealkenylation”

- Advisor: Prof. Ohyun Kwon
- Introducer: Lydia Hancock

2:50 PM: **Madeline Ruos**

“Development of general methods for nucleophilic functionalization”

- Advisor: Prof. Abigail Doyle
- Introducer: Erin Bucci

3:10 PM: **Erin Bucci**

“Site- and Stereoselective Ni-Catalyzed Cross-Coupling Reactions: Reaction Development and Predictive Modeling”

- Advisor: Prof. Abigail Doyle
- Introducer: Madeline Ruos

3:30 – 3:50 PM *Refreshment Break*

3:50 PM: **Georgia Scherer**

“Seven-Membered Strained Intermediates as Building Blocks for Synthesis”

- Advisor: Prof. Neil Garg
- Introducer: Jordan Gonzalez

4:10 PM: **Colin Johnson**

“Cross-Kingdom Genome Mining: Elucidating the Biosynthesis of Fungal Metabolites with Relevance to Human Health”

- Advisor: Prof. Yi Tang
- Introducer: Wenyu Han

4:30 PM: **Katie Snell**

“Polymer-Mediated Stabilization and Delivery of Biomolecules”

- Advisor: Prof. Heather Maynard
- Introducer: Georgia Scherer

4:50 PM: **Jared King**

“Photophysics and Photochemistry of Benzophenone Derivatives in Nanocrystalline Suspensions”

- Advisor: Prof. Miguel Garcia-Garibay
- Introducer: Antonio Macias

5:10 PM *Closing Remarks by Prof. Ken Houk*

5:20 PM *Celebratory Reception*

Sponsored by the Houk-Jung Organic Colloquium

This event is made possible by generous donations from our supporters and also through the gifts of the Bhaumik Centennial Collaboratory, Yoo Seminar & Conference Hall, Tsay Study Lab, and Centennial Collaboratory Donor Wall & Space Funds.

If you have any questions/concerns, please contact Brandon Lindo by email at brandonlindo@ucla.edu