



COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
PHYSICS
VIRGINIA TECH™

Department of Physics

A University Exemplary Department 1999, 2003, 2016



Commencement Ceremony Awards Presentation

May 16, 2020



Awards and Recipients



Each award recipient has provided a short autobiography that includes his or her personal background, extracurricular activities, honors and achievements, research endeavors, and career goals.

The following awards will be presented at this year's departmental commencement ceremony on May 16, 2020 to graduating seniors.

Ladies of Robeson Award

Gabriella Gagliano- Ashburn, VA

Ada Morral- Chevy Chase, MD

Lacey Wright- Williamsburg, VA

The Ladies of Robeson Award was established in 2019 through a gift by alumna Dr. Annalisa Pawlosky and Google. Awards are given to female undergraduate students who will pursue a graduate program, and to female graduate students who will pursue a post-doctoral position, outside of Virginia Tech.

Gabriella Gagliano is a senior from Ashburn, Virginia majoring in physics and minoring in math, Mandarin, and Spanish. Gabi has a passion for physics and language and believes that both are methods of exploring the world around us. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and writing poetry, running the culture exchange club “Culture Sparks” and dancing with the Flamenco team “Ole at Virginia Tech”. Gabi plans to continue her physics exploration by pursuing a PhD in applied physics where she hopes to be part of developing technologies of environmental and social impact.

Ada Morral is from Chevy Chase, MD and is currently a senior at Virginia Tech double majoring in physics and psychology and minoring in math. After spending time conducting geophysics, astrophysics, and experimental condensed matter research at Virginia Tech, Ada will be attending graduate school next year and hopes to earn her PhD in physics.

Lacey Wright is from Williamsburg, VA. She is an active member of the Marching Virginians and Circle K International here at Virginia Tech. After completing her B.S. in physics this semester, she will be attending George Mason University to pursue a PhD in biomedical engineering. In her spare time, she enjoys singing, hiking, and biking.

H.Y. Loh Award

Qianqin Hang– Wuxi, Jiangsu, China

Hayden Hollenbeck- Annandale, VA

The H.Y. Loh Award, a cash prize awarded upon graduation, became the very first award or scholarship dedicated to our physics majors. As a token of the high esteem in which Professor Loh was regarded by his colleagues, Dr. Ray Tipsword approached colleagues to create an endowed award which was first given in 1977. Loh retired in 1976, and at the time was the only member of the Virginia Tech Physics Department to have been awarded the W.E. Wine Award for Excellence in Teaching. The H.Y. Loh Award is made each spring to the graduating physics major who best exemplifies Dr. Loh's very high academic and personal standards.

Qianqin Hang is from Wuxi, Jiangsu, China. He plans to keep learning physics and get a M.S. degree or PhD degree some day in the future. In his spare time, he loves reading, swimming, playing video game and doing meditation.

Hayden Hollenbeck is a graduating senior in physics and math, with a minor in computer science. Originally from Annandale Virginia, he has since moved to Blacksburg and works on research with professor Cheng. During his free time, Hayden enjoys hiking, spending time with friends, and playing games. After graduating, Hayden will attend the University of Edinburgh's Master in Theoretical Physics program, with hopes to continue doing research in physics.