

# PRISM

Princeton Institute for the Science and  
Technology of Materials  
School of Engineering and Applied Science



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## "18 Students Graduate from Materials Science and Engineering Program, 2 recognized for Excellence"

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On Monday, June 4th, 18 graduating seniors were awarded certificates for completing the Materials Science Certificate and Engineering Program. The MSE program emphasizes the multidisciplinary nature of the study of materials and the engineering application of their properties. The program is designed for students in science and engineering departments who are preparing for careers in research and teaching that will include the exploration and exploitation of materials properties. Their majors included departments of Chemical Engineering, Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Chemistry, and Molecular Biology. Future plans range from attending graduate school at Cornell University and Stanford University to beginning careers as Chemical Engineers and Analysts.

Two students were recognized for their overall excellence in materials: Julian Hertz and Hiroaki Sai.

Julian Hertz is a senior in the Chemistry Department. He has done his senior thesis in the lab of Prof. Robert Cava investigating the synthesis and crystal structures of the  $\text{Li}_x\text{CoO}_2$  series of compounds. Prof. Cava writes, "Since it is a very important compound from a technical perspective, it has been studied by hundreds of researchers in the past twenty years. Given this, it is difficult to imagine that an undergraduate could do research on the system in the course of one year that is new and important, but this is exactly what Julian has done." Before continuing his education at medical school Julian will spend the next year working a rural clinic in Haiti.

Hiroaki Sai is a senior in the Chemical Engineering Department. He has done his senior thesis in the lab of Prof. Ilhan Aksay, working on the process and characterization of the mechanical properties of L3 liquid crystalline phase templated silica gels in comparison to silica aerogels. Prof. Aksay writes, "Hiroaki has done award winning thesis work. I expect that his manuscript will easily be published in *Langmuir* or *Chemistry of Materials*." Hiroaki will be continuing his education at Cornell University pursuing a PhD in the Materials Science and Engineering field.

