

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Nina Masters '14

Chemistry

Nina Masters is a senior in the Chemistry department pursuing a Materials Science certificate. She spent her Junior spring semester abroad at the University of Queensland in Australia, where she conducted research on octapeptin antibiotics for use against multi-drug resistant gram-negative bacteria. Her Junior Paper focused on synthesizing fluorescent probes of the antibiotics to track efficacy and localization within the body. Currently she is working on her senior thesis in Prof. McAlpine's lab, creating biocompatible stimuli-responsive core-shell particles for applications in tissue engineering and the creation of complex biological gradients. Selective release of these particles, loaded with relevant biomolecules, is triggered by laser activation of gold nanorod surface plasmons, which heat up to rupture the shell. Hit'em with the lasers Nina!

Outside of the laboratory (which is infrequent, mind you!) Nina loves graphic design and works on designing awesome gear for her eating club, Cannon. Conveniently, this passion comes in handy in the lab, and she makes great figures for her own work and her lab mates'. She is also passionate about eating, but is unfortunately limited by her gluten intolerance. She strives to discover gluten-free alternatives and substitutes to achieve her ideal food-loving lifestyle. A fun fact, and another fascinating detail that sets Nina apart from all others, is that she cannot feel heat.

- Written by Tamara Pico '14

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February 5

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Ryohei Seto
City College of New York
Levich Institute

February 12

[Title TBD](#)

Lyderic Bocquet
Université Lyon

February 26

[Directed Deposition of Functional Polymers onto Structured Materials and Liquid Surfaces](#)

Malancha Gupta
University of Southern California

March 12

[Nanostructures for Sensing and Energy Applications](#)

Liwei Lin
University of California, Berkeley

