

First of all, I hope that everyone is staying safe and healthy in these unprecedented times. It's definitely strange celebrating such a milestone in these circumstances, but I do feel that this is an accomplishment that we should be proud of.

We made it. We made it through all of the grueling lab reports, stressful exams, disheartening presentations. We made it despite the fact that our senior designs were cut short, and our final semester was less than ideal. We made it, and we made it in one of the most challenging academic fields.

This award is truly an honor and so I would like to acknowledge all of the people who have helped me get to this point. I would like to thank Dr. Nejhad and the other members of the Hawaii Nanotechnology Laboratory for their guidance in my research. I would like to thank my professors for the knowledge they've imparted to me. I would also like to thank my classmates for their camaraderie over these past few years because as we all know, it's always more fun to struggle with others than to struggle by yourself. I would like to thank my sister, friends, and boyfriend for their patience and encouragement when listening to my admittedly frequent complaints. And finally, I would like to thank my parents and other family members for their constant support throughout my entire life.

A few months ago, I was outside of Holmes Hall 140, desperately pleading my senior design components to work. While I watched the sunlight slowly drain from the sky until it was a deep violet, I had little on my mind except results. But now that I'm here, with the greatest result of my life achieved and behind me, I am extremely thankful for all of the experiences that I've gained in my undergraduate career. This is because I know that they've prepared me well for the daunting future ahead.

In closing, please take care of your health, good luck to all of us, and thank you.