

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

...It is impossible to start....

It cannot be argued with that the most influential person in my graduate career has been my advisor, Brian M. Stoltz. Brian's passion, guidance, and discipline have been indispensable to my growth as a scientist and as a person over these past five and a half years. I am especially grateful to Brian for his devotion to his students' education and success. I have not heard of another professor who goes so far out of his/her way to make sure students are prepared for whatever the next step in their journeys may be. Also, Brian introduced me to my best friend EVER, TLC. After all, it is the fastest, cheapest, easiest way to obtain meaningful information about what's going on in your reaction flask!

I am especially indebted to my thesis committee members, who have been simply unreal. Dennis Dougherty, my committee chair, has done a surprising job of keeping Harry in line, not to mention the insights he has provided in discussing my ideas and the depth to which he forces me to think. Harry Gray has been a constant source of support that has proven to be truly invaluable over the past two years when life has seemed so overwhelming. Bob Grubbs, the most recent addition to my committee has been asking me regularly how my research is going for years (I always regret not having a more cheerful reply, but the inquiries have meant a lot to me), and he always remembers to tell me when he's going climbing and I have to stay in lab! In all seriousness, all of my committee members have been very gracious and generous with their time, ideas, and recommendation letters. Thank you so much to all of them.

I have had the great pleasure of working on my project with Dr. Doug Behenna and Dr. Andy McClory. Doug was the single most influential person on my development as a

bench chemist. He taught me everything from what a TBS group is, to how to run a column, to the true meaning of scale-up. His hard work and friendship over the past years have been critical. I am grateful to Andy for helping me to learn that there is more than one way to approach a problem. He is a brilliant scientist, and I am sure he will be an amazing professor.

The various members of the Stoltz group have provided a diverse, if occasionally tumultuous, environment that has not only shaped me as a chemist, but also as a person. Through all of the ups and downs of the 72+ hours/week that we spend together, I wouldn't replace *any* of the people I have had the opportunity to work with in the lab. The early lab members were instrumental to me in learning techniques and in how to think about chemistry. I am especially grateful to Eric Ashley, Eric Ferreira, Doug Behenna, and Raissa Trend for their advice in my early years. Toward the middle and through the end of my graduate career, I had the great fortune of becoming close friends with Dave Ebner and Ryan McFadden, who were both willing to talk endlessly with me about my chemistry and who always tried the ideas that I suggested for their work. They, of course, have both ditched me, and I miss them dearly. (Congratulations to RMAC on the birth of his son, Nathan!! And Dave...you can't escape! I'll be in NYC soon.) I am more and more grateful to Dan Daspi every day as I write my thesis. Dan is so thoughtful in always trying to make the annoying parts of lab life run more smoothly. He has created a macro for everything you might need to do with a spectrum, and I think I'd still be trying to figure out how to get the things into my thesis right now if it weren't for him. My classmates are an awesome crew. I'm grateful to JT, who is a fountain of info from what's the deal with my NMR or the pKa of chemical X to what's the last step of the Rubik's cube algorithm. (Congratulations to JT on the birth of his daughter, Marie!!) Mike Krout always has what I'm looking for, whether it be a reagent or a procedure, and his generosity with both is appreciated. Also, I've always been grateful to

him for being so nice during group sports...I suck at most of them, and he is always patient. Mike Meyer has been a great friend over the years, and he will always hold a special place in my heart. Which brings me to Jenny Roizen...Jenny, I'll put your part at the end. The fou...fifth years are an eclectic bunch, that I have loved having around for the past four years. Nat Sherden has always been good to me, from bringing my mail in that ended up at his house to walking out of his way to walk me home when it's late at night, to apologizing when *I* have done something wrong, his kindness is overwhelming. Also, the emails...I *love* the emails. I hope I don't get taken off the group list right away because I will miss the misspelled sarcasm-rich frustrations. John Enquist is one of the most dedicated people I've known. It has been fun trying to break through his wall of seriousness (the trick is mint-chip ice cream!), and his dry sense of humor really gets me laughing sometimes. I have really enjoyed Kevin Allan's company as a baymate (briefly) and on years of coffee runs. I will always cherish the memory of late night flash columns listening to Ok Go, and I really admire his enthusiasm in the lab. Also, thanks for the cookie. Sandy Ma is one of the more unusual (in a good way) characters I've met. (DOGGIE!) She always makes me laugh and has the most quotable quotes. Brinton Anna Seashore-Ludlow was a fun baymate and is a great friend. I have missed her often since she moved to Sweeden. I've enjoyed getting to know Pam Tadross better over the past 9 months or so, and I'm sad that it took so long. She is a really thoughtful person and devoted friend. Chris Gilmore has always cracked me up. He's a great person to talk about life with, and lately I've enjoyed talking Obama with him as well. It's been awesome to have Hosea in the lab. He has such a different perspective from the status-quo, it's always fun to see what he thinks. I've really enjoyed Narae's company over the past few years. She is a genuine and sweet person, and I've grown to expect her in lab on Saturday over the past 6 months. I always thought she was joking when she said her hobby was sleeping, but she seems to be in lab the rest of the time! :P I've grown to

really enjoy having Allen Hong in 264, and it will be really sad to say goodbye. I'm thankful for all the candy and especially for his concern...he always wants to know how you're doing when he asks. Of course, I'll miss my secret admirer, aka Hahvard, aka Matt Winston. Matt has been a great cheerleader in my thesis effort and his support is really appreciated. Also, he cheers Jenny up, which cheers me up! The first years in the group are a hilarious bunch, and I regret that I won't have the opportunity to get to know them better. Nathan Bennett, my newest baymate, always has something nice to say, and he is very encouraging, even to himself... "Alright, self..." Jonny Gordon is just too cool for school (but he comes anyway). I dig the purple sweatband and the blue glasses. Alex Goldberg is our newest member, and he seems to share my sarcastic sense of humor. Finally, there are the postdocs. There have been many...I'm especially grateful to Amanda Jones, who has been a really good friend, and is always a pleasure to have in lab, but most importantly, hosts the poker night (no boss allowed!). Jan Streuff has been a fun companion over the past year, and I will miss him when he goes back to Deutschland. Also, Corinne Baumgartner has been a fun exercise buddy, and Christian Defieber always tried to speak German with me. If it weren't for Nolan McDougal, I would not be able to say that I've walked from campus to Roscoe's, or worse, I might not know how to properly eat bread at a nice dinner! I'm grateful to him for the fun memories and for introducing me to scallops. I mentioned Andy McClory briefly, but I need to mention here that he is one of the more loyal friends a person could ask for, and I really enjoyed his friendship. A recent addition to the lab, Chris Henry, has fast become one of my closest friends, and I am very thankful to have met him. Thanks also to Xiaoqing Han (X-Dog), Andy Harned, Haiming Zhang, and Kousuke Tani for their kindness and advice.

I need to make a separate paragraph here for my baymates. Eric Ashley was my first baymate, and I am ever grateful to him for all that he taught me those first few years.

Also, I wouldn't know important things like "what ever happened to a good old fashioned passionate *%&-whuppin', getting your shoes, coat and your hat tooke." Brinton Seashore-Ludlow is one of those people that you just love right away. We had lots of fun hiking and going to yoga, and of course running collumm-collummns!! Enough cannot be said about Thomas Jensen, who among other things was the first baymate I had who liked *all* the same music as me. We had a blast jammin' in the lab and talking chemistry. Not to mention playing 10:1 with Dave!

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I've put this off for awhile now, but it comes time to try to thank Jenny Roizen. There aren't words to express my gratitude to Jenny. For the first three years of grad school, Jenny was my roommate, labmate, and friend. We did everything together. I could not possibly have gotten through some of the rougher times of the past five and a half years without Jenny's constant love and support. I have grown to really appreciate her direct candor with me about everything. To put it briefly, Jenny rocks. I'm so sad to be leaving her in the lab without me. I know that she will get through everything fine, but I wish I could be here to support her, as she has so devotedly supported me over this thesis journey.

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