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!

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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 Xiaoquing Han (X-Dog), Andy Harned, Haiming Zhang, and Kousuke Tani for their kindness and advice.

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were different.

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