

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Nathaniel Thomas Kadunce was born on October 28, 1988 to Dr. Beverly A. Carl, M.D. and Dr. William M. Kadunce in Pittsburgh, PA. He grew up in nearby Beaver, PA, graduating from Beaver Area High School in 2007. Following that, he made his first westward move, attending Oberlin College in Oberlin, OH. His interest in chemistry, particularly organic chemistry, was fostered there by valuable courses, but more importantly by research. Joining the laboratory of Prof. Jason Belitsky gave Nat his first experience doing hands-on research in a lab, developing a C–H borylation/Suzuki coupling approach to the iterative synthesis of eumelanin analogues. After receiving his B.A. degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry in 2011, Nat was committed to a future in synthetic organic chemistry, with a particular interest in transition metal catalysis.

Following this passion, Nat and Julia drove to the west coast in 2011, where he enrolled at the California Institute of Technology in sunny Pasadena. He commenced his doctoral studies under the supervision of Prof. Sarah Reisman and focused his research on the development of asymmetric Ni-catalyzed reductive cross-coupling reactions. 2014 saw the happy marriage of Nat and Julia, and 2016 saw the successful conclusion of Nat's Ph. D. studies. In the summer of 2016, they will make a much shorter move to the Bay area, where Nat will begin his industrial career within the process chemistry group at Gilead Sciences in Foster City.