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## Undergraduates earn honors for chemistry research

DALLAS – Dec. 11, 2007 – Kaylie Young, a senior at Brown University, has won the 2007 Frank and Sara McKnight Prize in Undergraduate Chemistry at UT Southwestern Medical Center.

Ms. Young was awarded the \$2,000 top prize for her research project "Conjugating Methotrexate to Magnetic Magnetite Nanoparticles via Trichloro-s-triazine."

The \$1,000 second place award went to Brian Shuhler, a senior at Washington State University, for his work "'One-pot' Synthesis of Polysubstituted Thiophenes." Jesse Jacobsen of the University of Louisville received the \$500 third place for "A Facile Synthesis of 3-fluoro-2,4,5-trisubstituted furans: the Importance of Microwave Irradiation."

The McKnight Prize was instituted in 2006 by Dr. Steven McKnight, chairman of biochemistry at UT Southwestern, in honor of his parents. It is intended to promote undergraduate research in chemistry by recognizing outstanding accomplishment.

More than 70 undergraduates representing 62 universities and colleges from 30 states took part in the 2007 competition.

Ten finalists traveled to New Braunfels, Texas, to give poster presentations on their work at the annual November retreat of the UT Southwestern Department of Biochemistry. Winners were chosen for both the significance of their work and the quality of their presentation.

The other finalists were:

- Leslie Aldrich, Mercer University
- Andrew Chang, Harvard University
- Catt Edgley, University of Maryland
- William Hudson, Duke University
- Marc Lajoie, Dartmouth College
- Jamie Rogers, Illinois Wesleyan University
- Lisa Ryno, Trinity University

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