

## 2015 Anna Louise Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Graduate Research

**Kristen E. Brown**  
**Northwestern University**



Kristen Brown is currently working to provide us with power for the future—both with research in solar photovoltaics and as an up-and-coming scientist. Her work, well-published and presented, is at a high level, and involves developing “next generation solar energy materials” with great emphasis in understanding how and why they work. Kristen’s research advisor, Professor Michael R. Wasielewski writes: “Kristen has developed a deep understanding of the experimental techniques and theory behind the complex femtosecond stimulated Raman spectroscopy (FSRS) experiment, and how it can be used to probe molecular structure in real time. She has developed new data acquisition and analysis protocols that have greatly improved both the speed and accuracy of data collection in this experiment. She has developed a fundamental understanding of the molecular properties that allow facile observation of stimulated Raman spectra. She is the type of researcher who digs deep into the core of what a spectroscopic technique is really telling us about a molecular system, and at the same time, what it cannot tell us. She has developed very quickly into a first rate scientist. Kristen’s ability to communicate the impact of her science and that of science in general to a broad community is truly exceptional. In 2013 alone, she has applied for and received three grants that have allowed her to contribute significantly to the Association of Women in Chemistry, hold an Advancement of Women Chemists Workshop, and organize a Science Policy Workshop on Communications and Lobbyist Strategy. In addition, she has completed the Kellogg School of Management Certificate program for Scientists and Engineers. Kristen’s organizational skills are truly outstanding and she is already making a direct impact in communicating the value of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) programs to the public.” Recommender, Dick T. Co, Director of the Argonne-Northwestern Solar Energy Research (ANSER) Center writes: “Kristen possesses a unique combination of training in engineering and

chemistry, but what really sets her apart from her peers is her courage (and ability) to identify issues/gaps in her communities and rally people to take action. One of many examples: Kristen was very observant in noticing that energy and science policy exposure was lacking for Northwestern students. Instead of simply pursuing her policy education/experience individually, she reactivated a defunct organization (Northwestern University Science and Policy Action Network, NUSPAN) and expanded its membership to include more than 100 students in just a few months.” Kristen Brown truly exemplifies what Iota Sigma Pi stands for, and we all look forward to seeing her accomplishments and contributions to the world in the future.