Fumi Kato Award
(Undergraduate Excellence in Research)

The Fumi Kato Award has been created with a generous donation from Fumi Kato, a Stony Brook alumnus. This prize will be awarded to candidates with talent and good academic standing who have a strong desire for participating in research at the forefront of particle physics under the guidance of Prof. Chang Kee Jung.

The award can provide a modest amount of independent funds for candidates’ travel to a professional conference, workshop or a topical school. Candidates should be enrolled in Stony Brook University as an undergraduate majoring in Physics at the time of the application.

Prof. Jung leads the Stony Brook Nucleon decay and Neutrino (NN) research group which is currently involved in the Super-Kamiokande and the T2K experiments. The NN group is dedicated to the advancement of neutrino physics and proton (nucleon) decay research, and has made significant contributions to the seminal discoveries.

Candidates are asked to provide a personal statement that includes their research interests, a CV, a current undergraduate transcript and three letters of recommendation.

May 2019 Recipient:
Perri M. Zilberman

May 2018 Recipients:
Tianai Ye
Alexandra Krawchuk

May 2015 Recipient:
Deanna Zarillo

May 2012 Recipients:
Jae Hong Kim
Vyassa Lin-Wei
Tokufumi (Fumi) Kato

Tokufumi Kato was born in Kyoto, Japan in 1977, and after graduating from high school he came to the United States for his college education in 1996. He attended University of Maine for the very first year and subsequently transferred to Stony Brook, where he spent many years for both his undergraduate and graduate studies.

As an undergraduate he majored in physics and mathematics. At the end of his sophomore year, he was introduced to Prof. Chang Kee Jung by Prof. Peter Kahn who served as Chair of the department for many years. He then joined the group and worked on the K2K experiment construction during that summer and later on the Super-Kamiokande experiment to search for proton decay, which is yet to be discovered, until his graduation.

He continued his graduate studies at Stony Brook to continue working on Super-Kamiokande with his advisor Prof. Jung, where his focus was on observation of tau neutrino appearance through atmospheric neutrino oscillations. He earned his Ph.D. in 2007, and his doctoral dissertation was "Tau Neutrino Appearance via Neutrino Oscillations in Atmospheric Neutrinos".

He then pursued his career in the financial industry, where he started as a quantitative analyst at a hedge fund and is now Vice President working as a product manager at Neuberger Berman, one of the largest private US asset management firms.

Although he is no longer in academia, he established this Fellowship because he would like to support undergraduate students to get involved in real physics experiments, where he/she could have opportunities to learn not only physics but also how the physics experiments are being carried out. Through such experience, he believes that students could gain collaborative working and problem solving skills, which could be crucial in any field he/she pursues, and last but not least, he wish to support Prof. Jung's commitment to teaching.

HONORS & AWARDS: DPF conference scholarship Neutrino2006 student scholarship Yoji Totsuka Scholarship The Dr. Nathaniel and Fannie Soroff Prize Stony Brook Foundation Award for Excellence in Mathematics Undergraduate Recognition Award for Expanded Learning Wallace's Bookstore Scholarship Undergraduate Recognition Award for Excellent and Outstanding Achievement Golden Key National Honors Society Sigma Pi Sigma Physics Honors Society Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society