

Suning Wang

Winner

Canadian Association for Graduate Studies
Award for Outstanding Graduate Mentorship
2018

Dr. Suning Wang is an outstanding graduate student mentor. She has supervised 13 M.Sc. and 24 Ph.D. students at Queen's University, many of whom have become leaders in their respective fields. Dr. Wang models excellence in scholarship, professional conduct, and integrity, and instills in her graduates a desire to emulate these qualities. Current and former students write eloquently about Dr. Wang's supportive mentoring style, through which they learned to take risks and to pursue new ideas in an environment of respect, openness, and collaboration. She challenges her students to think critically, to ask difficult questions, and to continually grow as scientists. "She never let me settle for less than I was capable of," writes a former student. "She let me learn on my own and make mistakes and gave me a sense of ownership over my project."

What sets Dr. Wang apart is her commitment to understanding her graduate students as human beings with a story to tell. Dr. Wang's students credit her with supporting life-changing personal growth, and many point to the immense energy she dedicates to ensuring graduates are successful, not only in the laboratory but also in their personal lives. She has provided students with meals, books, and housing assistance, and has fostered a research community in which graduate students feel like they belong and that their research matters. Dr. Wang's mentorship continues after her students have graduated, and she has helped dozens to find fulfilling post-graduate positions. Indeed, several of her former students have been appointed to faculty positions at major Canadian universities, where they are conducting leading-edge chemical science. "What motivates Dr. Wang is the simple joy in discovery and of seeing her lab members grow from students into scientists," reflects a former student, now a Canada Research Chair. "She has taught me a great deal about the kind of supervisor I one day hope to be."



Suning Wang (PhD, Chemistry, Yale University; Postdoctoral Fellow, Texas A&M University, Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada) joined the faculty of the Department of Chemistry at Queen's University in 1996. She is now a full professor and a Queen's University Research Chair in Chemistry.



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