Dr. Peng Zhang is the recipient of the Harold N. Glassman Distinguished Dissertation Award in the Sciences for his dissertation, "Synthesis of Organofluorine Compounds and Chirality Sensing with Tropos Ligands." Dr. Zhang earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Chemistry, with a concentration in Organic Chemistry, under the mentorship of Professor Christian Wolf.

Dr. Zhang's dissertation focuses on the synthesis of organofluorine compounds and chemosensor design. Although there are very few organofluorine compounds in nature, approximately 20-30% of pharmaceutical drugs – including commonly prescribed drugs such as Crestor, Lipitor and Seretide -- contain at least one fluorine atom. Incorporation of a fluorine atom to a drug molecule can increase its bioavailability and resistance to metabolic degradation in the human body. However, the synthesis of the organofluorine compound is relatively underdeveloped. By studying the synthetic methodology development of organofluorine compounds, Dr. Zhang successfully developed several novel protocols to prepare small organic molecules containing 1-5 fluorine atoms.

Dr. Zhang's discoveries have been published in top-leading journals in the field such as *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, *Chemical Communications*, the *Journal of Organic Chemistry*, and *Advanced Synthesis & Catalysis*. Three of his publications on the synthesis of organic compounds containing 2, 3, and 5 fluorine atoms were selected for reprinting by the editorial board of *Synfacts* -- a monthly journal providing researchers in academia and industry with summaries of the most significant progress in the field of synthetic chemistry. His work has been cited and reported by academia and industry researchers from the US, Canada, China, the UK, Japan, Germany, Spain, Korea, among others. Finally, Dr. Zhang also has made compelling contributions to the chirality chemosensing field. His research was featured in the July 16, 2013 edition of *ChemistryWorld, a journal of the* Royal Chemical Society, which highlights high-impact research.

Dr. Zhang is currently a Research Associate in the Department of Chemistry at Michigan State University working on green chemistry using bio-based renewable feedstock to prepare chemicals that were traditionally obtained from fossil fuels.

The Graduate School is very proud to award Dr. Peng Zhang the Glassman Dissertation Award in the Sciences.