On May 8, 2010, faculty, alumni and supporters of the Department of Chemistry gathered to honor Northwestern University faculty member Dr. Joseph B. Lambert, the Clare Hamilton Hall Professor of Chemistry. During the festschrift, Dr. Andrew C. Chan, PhD announced his commitment to fund the Chemistry of Life Processes Institute (CLP) Lambert Fellows Program, a fellowship program in Lambert’s name. Lambert was Chan’s advisor in the late 1970’s at Northwestern University and helped him succeed as a student and had a profound impact on his educational experience. Chan is currently the senior vice president of immunology at Genentech, the founder of the biotechnology industry, and a member of Northwestern University’s Chemistry of Life Processes Executive Advisory Board. The funds that alumnus Dr. Chan donated will provide multi-year support for hands-on laboratory research for rising sophomores and juniors majoring in Chemistry under the mentorship of CLP faculty members.

The Lambert Fellows program is built to create a cadre of enthusiastic, well-trained undergraduates who will be entrepreneurial in their approach to scientific research. The program will consist of three elements essential to undergraduate training in multidisciplinary research: 1) a combination of a stipend and funds for lab materials for intensive summer research; 2) funding for lab supplies for academic year research; 3) funding to support participation in conferences. Each Fellowship award amounts to $7,000 annually. An application form is available on the CLP website (http://www.clp.northwestern.edu/education/clp-lambert-fellows-program).

The Chemistry of Life Processes Institute was founded in 2004 and designed to unify the disciplines of chemistry, biology, engineering, and computational science. The Institute draws its membership from twenty-five faculty members whose departmental affiliations span three schools (Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, McCormick School of Engineering, and Feinberg School of Medicine) and seven departments within Northwestern University. Through research programs such as the CLP Lambert Fellows Program, the Institute provides training and instruction to the next generation of multidisciplinary scientists.

The generosity of alumni and friends is required to expand the educational mission and enhance programming of the CLP Lambert Fellows Program. Contributions are welcome through the Northwestern University giving website (www.giving.northwestern.edu).