

# SMS Connects - January 2021



## Welcome to Spring 2021!

Dear SMS Community,

We start another semester against the backdrop of the COVID-19 pandemic, but again, with some cautious optimism. We are taking what we learned last semester and improving on it to build learning environments that are as productive and as safe as possible.

Although it was a campus-wide trend last semester that many students chose not to take advantage of the on-campus offerings, those students who did attend the laboratory courses in person very much appreciated the opportunity to take part in hands-on learning (please see the student experience video below). We plan to continue an emphasis on in person laboratory learning this semester.

Remarkably, course enrollments in SMS classes are up almost 7% compared to the spring semester last year, primarily driven by online enrollments. There is also good news on the vaccine front. The state has agreed to allow ASU instructors who teach in-person classes to be classified as educators and join the Phase 1B vaccine priority group, and some of our instructional faculty have already received their first vaccinations. This is particularly important for our student teaching assistants, who experience the highest exposures to undergraduate students. Finally, we are planning to have full on-campus teaching return for the summer and are looking forward to taking the first step back towards normal operation in fall 2021, although it is clear that at least some of the COVID-induced changes that benefit remote students are here to stay.

And so, with these hints at a return to normalcy on the horizon, I thank all of our staff and faculty for the incredible amount of hard work that has gone into preparing for the new semester, and I wish you all a productive, and most importantly, a safe semester.

Ian Gould  
SMS Interim Director

# Our Students

The 2020 pandemic changed many things including the college experience for first-year students. Let's listen to several of our School's first-year students about their first semester at ASU in the middle of the pandemic.



Read: [SMS freshmen's first semester in the middle of the pandemic](#)

Watch video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2EJwpU1Qi3I&t=18s>

# Alumni Story



## **Zofia Wosinska, PhD in Biochemistry, 2009**

SMS is proud of its alumni and the varied and interesting career paths they take. Zofia Wosinska earned a BS degree in Psychology at ASU and a PhD working in Ian Gould's lab, graduating in 2009, the year that President Obama gave the commencement speech. After graduating she accepted a position at Ventana Medical Systems where she worked on molecular staining systems for anatomic pathology of cancer tissue. Since then she has held several positions in the biotechnology sector, and has started her own company, Estaine ([estaine.com](http://estaine.com)), which combines chemical science with fashion in the support of cancer research. Zofia also earned an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and was the subject of a recent article feature on Wharton School alumni. Zofia seeks to inspire more women in science to get MBAs. [Read full article.](#)

# News and Research Highlights



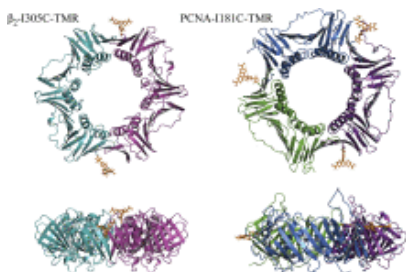
Tijana Rajh from the Center for Nanoscale Materials at Argonne National Laboratory will join ASU as the director of the School of Molecular Sciences in July 2021. [read more...](#)



Hao Yan receives the 2020 Foresight Institute Feynman Prize for his significant contributions to the field of nanotechnology, including major advancements in the design and construction of DNA nanostructures. [read more..](#)



Professor Alex Navrotsky is awarded the Distinguished Life Membership from the American Ceramic Society. [watch video](#)



"New and unexplored dimension in the study of protein-protein interactions", Marcia Levitus and Anirban Purohit recently published a new paper in Biophysical Journal. [read more...](#)

## In Memoriam...

**Jacob Fuchs (1923-2020)**



Jacob Fuchs, who began his teaching career when ASU was still Arizona State Teachers College in 1952, passed away Jan. 3 at the age of 97. [Read full story](#)

**Dennis Lohr (1944-2020)**



Dennis Lohr, an emeritus professor with ASU's School of Molecular Sciences, died at his home in Hawaii last month. [Read full story](#)

# Upcoming Events



## ASU Open Door (March 1, 2021)

Make your own discovery and explore ASU! This year, ASU Open Door will be an online event, [click here to check out the exciting chemistry demonstrations provided by SMS](#). Video links will go live on March 1, 2021.

## Sun Devil GIVING DAY

### Sun Devil Giving Day(March 18, 2021)

Mark your calendar, join us on March 18th, make a contribution that will help our most deserving students. [Please visit our giving website](#), more information will be posted on our next newsletter.

# New: SMS Merch Site

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We are pleased to announce the SMS Branded Merch Site! Please click this link to our online store: <https://asusms.designashirt.com>, shop for your favorite SMS shirts or other merchandises. Be proud to be a member of the SMS Community!

# Employment Opportunities

- The Arizona Department of Health Services: [Public Health Scientist 1 - 3, Environmental Science Specialist 3](#)
- City of Glendale, AZ: [Forensic Scientist](#)
- St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center: [Research Technician](#)
- Summer internships: Please check the [SMS internship website](#) for internship related information

Please follow us on the [SMS LinkedIn](#) page for more job opportunities. Please also check [Chemistry Job Resource: Chemjobber](#) for more chemistry jobs.

Please feel free to send email to [ASUSMS@asu.edu](mailto:ASUSMS@asu.edu) at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions. You can visit our website at [sms.asu.edu](http://sms.asu.edu) or connect with us by liking our [Facebook](#) page!

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