

SMS Connects - March 2021



SMS needs your help

Dear SMS Community,

ASU recently took another step towards a return to normalcy with the announcement of the intent to revert to fully onground operations in the fall. This, of course, assumes no new large surges in infections due to new virus variants. The School is seeing intense interest in its online courses, with a projected increase in enrollment in summer 2021 classes of close to 50% compared to summer 2020. This summer also sees the return of onground organic chemistry and biochemistry lab courses for online students. Many of these delayed taking their lab courses by a year so as not to miss their opportunity to visit our campus and meet their peers and faculty in person, and we very much look forward to welcoming them to Tempe this summer.

All of this good news was tempered this month however by the very sad news of the passing of one of the School's most influential faculty members, Austen Angell. Austen was one of the world's foremost researchers in the chemistry and physics of glasses, aqueous solutions and novel electrolytes. He brought world-wide attention to ASU as a place for science at the highest level. Please see the article linked below in ASU News on Austen's career; SMS will be producing its own recognition of Austen's career soon.

Thank you!

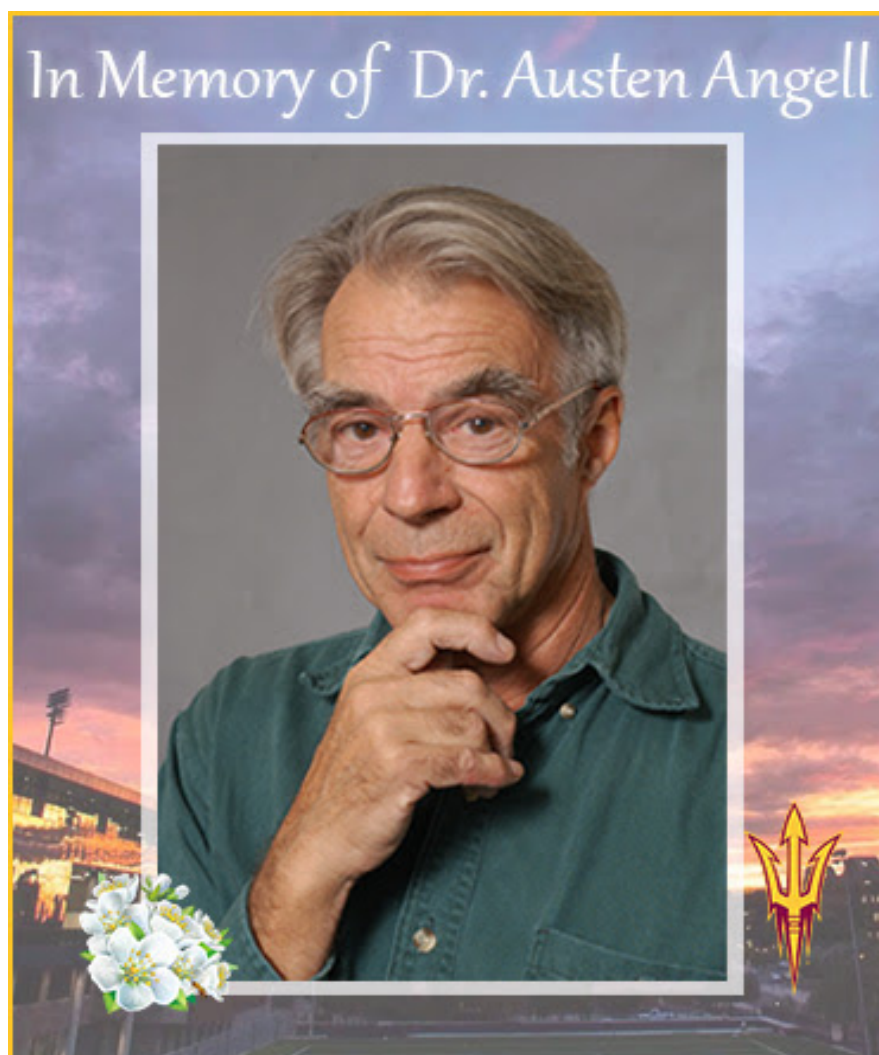
Ian Gould
SMS Interim Director

Dr. Austen Angell left legacy of exploration

SMS faculty member and world-renowned researcher Austen Angell passed away on March 12 after a 17-year battle with cancer. Although perhaps most well-known for defining the “strong-fragile” classification viscous liquids, Austen made many seminal contributions across the chemistry and physics of glassy materials, aqueous solutions and materials science. His work also extended into geochemistry, biophysical chemistry and energy storage and conversion. His career was characterized by multiple international awards and his work has been cited over 65,000 times with an H-index over 110.

Austen will be missed both as a superb colleague and as a wonderfully warm and friendly presence in the School, our thoughts are with Jenny and the family at this time.

[Read the full story](#)

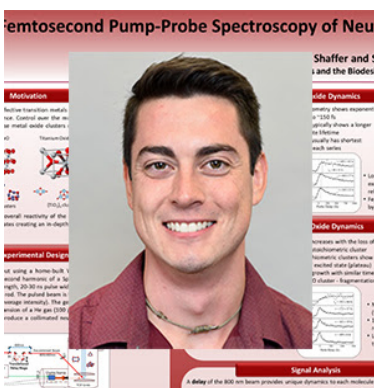


Our Students



Graduating senior inspired to become a doctor through son's illness

When his son was hospitalized, David Reed's positive interactions with professionals caring for his son inspired him to pursue a career in medicine. Going back to school as a working parent has been a challenge, but also rewarding. Today, Reed is an online SMS student who is about to graduate, and has been accepted into medical school. Reed plans to help others in his community. [Read the full story](#)



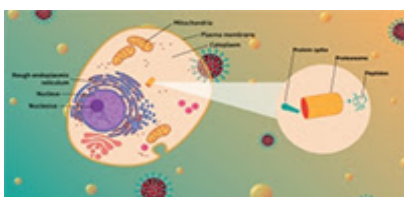
Graduate student Jacob Garcia wins at the 2021 AAAS Student E-poster Competition

SMS Graduate Student Jacob Garcia recently presented his poster "[Femtosecond Pump-Probe Spectroscopy Of Neutral Transition Metal Oxide Clusters](#)" at the 2021 AAAS Student E-poster Competition, and received a third place award. Jacob is a PhD student in Dr. Scott Sayer's group.

The AAAS Student E-poster competition recognizes the individual efforts of students who are actively working toward an undergraduate, graduate or doctoral-level degree. The winners' presentations displayed originality and understanding that set them apart from their peers.

[Award Announcement at the AAAS website](#)

News and Research Highlights



Variances in critical protein may guide fate of those infected with SARS CoV-2

Karen Anderson and Abhishek Singharoy's new research explores MHC-I, a critical protein component of the human adaptive immune system. [read more...](#)



SMS Professor Leads in Energy Research

Gary Moore and his research team seek to understand and advance the science of molecular materials for applications in transducing solar energy. [read more..](#)



Double-masking the right way

ASU aerosol expert Pierre Herckes provides advice on the practice of wearing two face masks simultaneously. [read more..](#)

Thank You for Helping Our Students!



The School of Molecular Sciences would like to thank everyone who participated in Sun Devil Giving Day! This year, we have received nearly \$20,000 donations. Your generosity will help to support and prepare our most deserving students to achieve their educational goals! Thank you!

SMS Social Media Channels



We have created a new series highlighting women scientists within our school and other women who have left their mark on the science community. Stay up-to-date by following us on [SMS Facebook](#) and [SMS Instagram\(@sms.asu\)](#). If you would like to nominate a woman scientist who has left a positive impact on you, send it to asusms@asu.edu, with the title "Women in Science Nomination."

Employment Opportunities

- ASU Engineering: [Postdoctoral Researcher Position](#)
- City of Yuma, Arizona: [Chemist](#)
- Consolidated Safety Services, Inc. [Environmental Analytical Chemist](#)
- 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 at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions. You can visit our website at sms.asu.edu or connect with us by liking our [Facebook](#) page!

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