

SMS Connects - May 2021



Dear SMS Community,

The School of Molecular Sciences congratulates its spring 2021 graduates for their hard-earned academic achievements! This spring, the School of Molecular Sciences graduated a total of 234 students. Of these, [13 earned PhD degrees](#) and [221 undergraduate students](#) were awarded Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in chemistry, biochemistry, medicinal chemistry and environmental chemistry. We are happy to share in the excitement of their graduation day, and we look forward to hearing of their continued successes in the future.

Our graduates have turned what could have been a lost academic year into one of particular achievement. Many faced severe illness and financial hardship and yet still found the will and the way to achieve their academic goals in the face of an unprecedented set of circumstances. They have our deepest respect and admiration, we are proud of everyone!

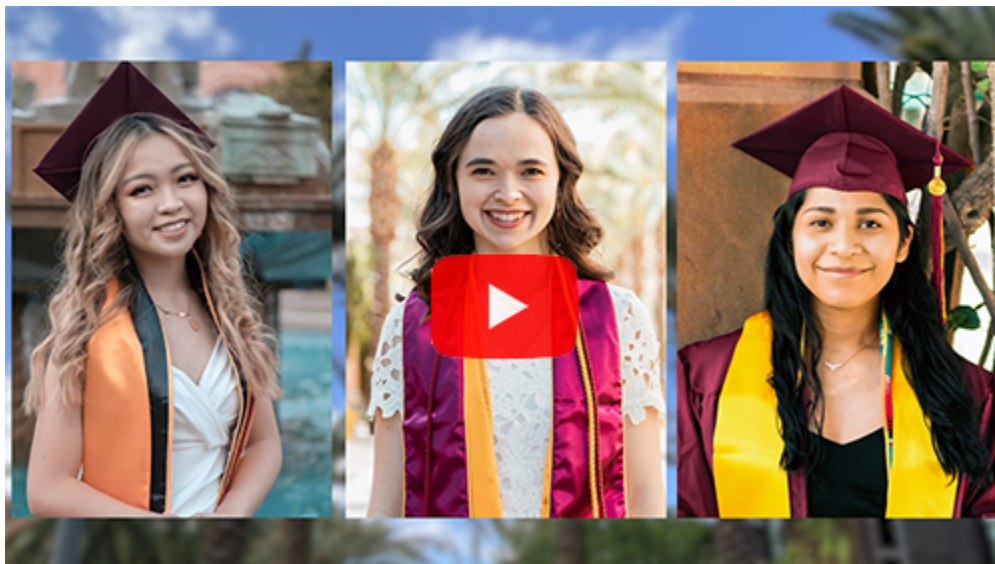
We are also proud of the entire SMS community for their tireless efforts to maintain our School as a place for excellence in teaching and learning while keeping us all as safe as possible. The faculty took on the challenge of switching their teaching to accommodate completely new modalities and the students accepted the challenge to adapt their learning styles. In the end, everybody's hard work and determination paid off. We have all learned so much in this extraordinary year.

The current plan for the University is to return in the fall with full onground operations, and we sincerely hope that acceptance of the vaccine will be strong enough and that the spread of the virus can be sufficiently contained to allow that to happen.

And so, congratulations to the class of 2021! Take some time to celebrate with your friends and families, and don't forget to thank them for their support.

Click to visit [Graduation celebration page for Undergraduate Degrees](#) and [Graduate Degrees](#).

Best Regards,
Ian Gould
SMS Interim Director



[Watch the Graduation Celebration Video](#)

[Graduation celebration page for Undergraduate Degrees](#) || [Graduate Degrees](#).

Meet some of our graduates



Ellen Streitwieser
BS Biochemistry, Minor: Psychology
[Graduating chemistry student's health resulted in passion for science, remarkable accomplishments](#)



Victoria Froh
BS Environmental Chemistry, Astrobiology and Biogeosciences
[ASU graduate discovers her own degree path through double majors](#)



Bryan Ugaz
BS Biochemistry
[Graduating biochemistry senior credits researchers with his drive for success](#)



Nicola Osgood
BS Biochemistry
[ASU School of Molecular Sciences military veteran graduates this summer](#)



Catalina Lopez Jimenez
BS Biochemistry
[From Early Start to graduation, first-generation student makes her way](#)



David Reed
BS Biochemistry
[ASU graduating senior inspired to become a doctor through son's illness](#)

SMS Faculty in News



[SMS clinical assistant professor Ara Austin receives outstanding educator award](#)

Ara Austin has been selected to receive 2020-2021 Outstanding Lecturer/Clinical Professor Award for The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences for her outstanding contributions to the ASU community.



[Fromme's pioneering efforts in X-ray crystallography honored with prestigious Anfinsen Award](#)

SMS Professor Petra Fromme has received the 2021 Christian B. Anfinsen Award. The honor is bestowed by the Protein Society, the premier international association dedicated to supporting protein research.

SMS Graduate Student Highlight



[ASU Innovation Award recipient proposes new pathway to produce fuels](#)

The winner of the SMS 2021 Innovation Award, graduate student Nghi Nguyen, aims to convert sunlight, water and air into fuels.

End of Semester...

The Spring 2021 semester has come to an end and we want to thank everyone in the SMS community for their continued stamina and support during these difficult times. Have a wonderful summer knowing that this semester was definitely a success. Congratulations everyone and please stay safe!

Please feel free to send email to ASUSMS@asu.edu at any time with questions, concerns, or suggestions. Please visit our website at sms.asu.edu to learn more about our school.

Connect with us on social media:

[SMS Facebook](#), [SMS Instagram\(@sms.asu\)](#), [SMS YouTube](#)

ASU School of
Molecular Sciences
Arizona State University