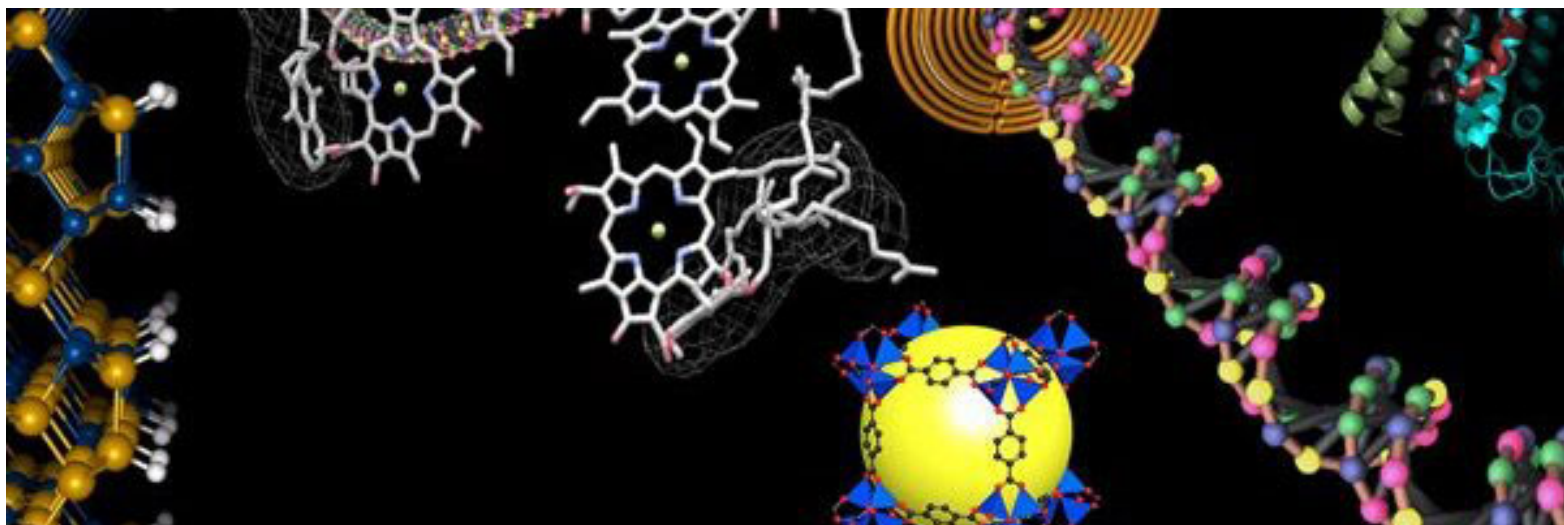


SMS Connects - September 2021



Dear SMS Community,

The School of Molecular Sciences continues to prosper with new recognitions, discoveries and growth. This year marks the first year when the number of our online students bypassed the number of our immersion students. Tim Long was recently awarded the ACS Paul J. Flory Award for polymer chemistry and Alex Navrotsky was part of the team awarded a \$13.7M award from the NSF to establish a new national high-pressure facility. Alex also made a personal donation to ASU of \$10M to invest in a long-term future and growth of material science across ASU. SMS also welcomes new faculty member Judith Klein-Seetharaman. Her research combines computational and experimental studies of protein structure, dynamics and function with particular emphasis on membrane proteins.

In sad news, our long-time colleague George “Bob” Pettit passed away on September 21st. He was a giant in the area of natural products synthesis for anticancer drugs. We are also saddened to share that SMS graduate student Gafaru Adam passed away on September 13th in a tragic drowning accident. Gafaru only joined SMS in August to pursue a doctoral degree in biochemistry, and he was taking his first courses and starting his first research rotations. In the short time he was at ASU, he stood out for his enthusiasm and eagerness to learn. BOTH will be deeply missed.

Best Regards,
Tijana Rajh
SMS Director

In Memoriam...



In memoriam: Regents Professor George 'Bob' Pettit

It is with sadness that the ASU School of Molecular Sciences announces the death of Regents Professor George “Bob” Pettit.

SMS graduate student Gafaru Adam dies in accident

Gafaru Adam, who arrived from Ghana at the end of July to begin a PhD in biochemistry in the School of Molecular Sciences, died in a tragic accident off campus on Sept. 13.

News and Research Highlights...



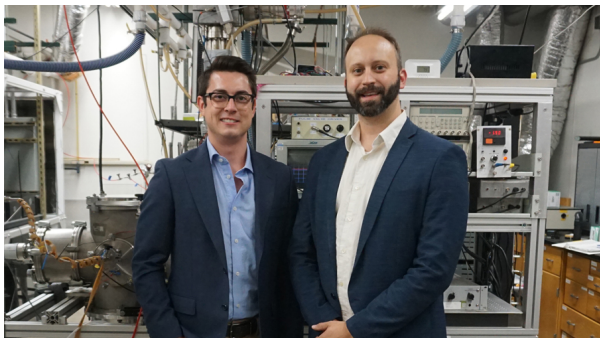
Navrotsky increases ASU donation to \$10M

Alexandra Navrotsky has made a \$10 million donation to ASU to further the growth of material science research. The gift will support graduate-level research, junior faculty and fund thermodynamics research.



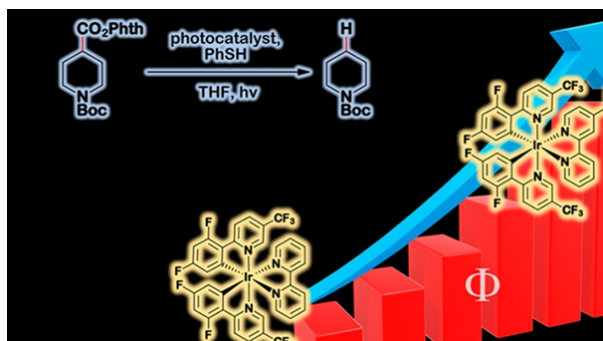
Tim Long receives NSF grant and ACS Award

The American Chemical Society recognized Long’s excellence in polymer research through the 2022 Paul J. Flory Award. Long was also awarded a \$1.9 million NSF grant.



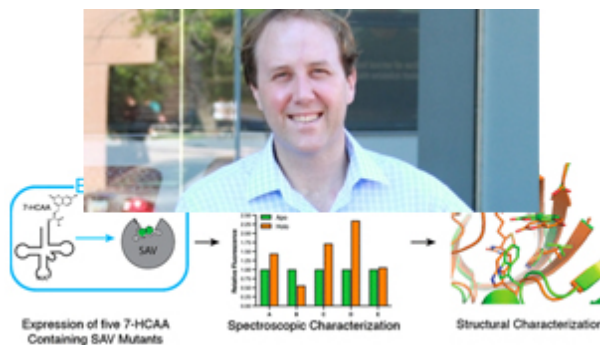
Study explores a unique material with tunable properties

Scott Sayres and graduate student Jacob Garcia use mass spectroscopy and ultrafast laser pulses to interrogate chromium oxides in unprecedented detail.



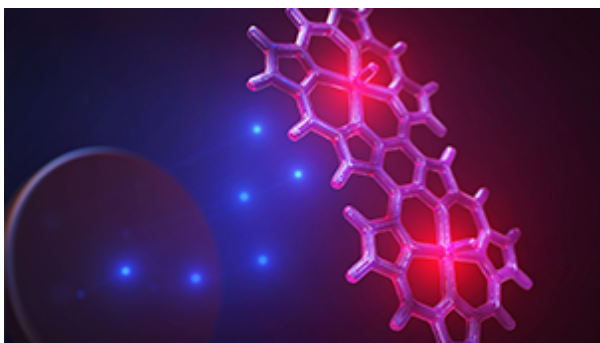
Inspired by photosynthesis, scientists double reaction quantum efficiency

Professors Tom Moore and Ana Moore introduced a bioinspired catalyst that lengthens the productive state of some chemical reactions.



Computational protein design utilizes unnatural amino acids

Jeremy Mills and his group have just published their research in the journal Biochemistry and present a novel solution to this problem.



New research advances clean energy solutions

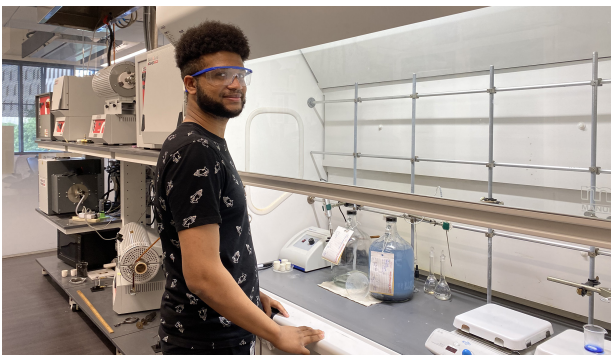
Gary Moore and his colleagues describe catalytic mechanisms of porphyrins.

[Read more SMS News and Research](#)

Our Students and Alumni...

Doctoral student joins ASU School of Molecular Sciences with gusto

Meet SMS new PhD Student Jordan Sinclair. Jordan



received his undergraduate degree from the University of Delaware and is passionate about attacking the problem of finding alternative energy sources and materials.



Skylar Henry receives Swift Scholarship

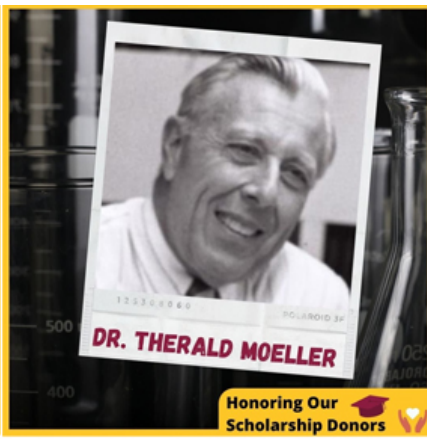
Graduate student Skylar Henry wins this year's Harry Lowell Swift Scholarship. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of research to help in the advancing of human health. Skylar received this award for her research proposal "DNA Nanostructure-Mediated Co-delivery of Viral Vectors for CRISPR Gene Therapy".



Chris Gisriel receives NIH early-career award

Chris Gisriel, SMS 2017 PhD graduate, currently a postdoctoral associate in the Department of Chemistry at Yale University, was recently awarded an NIH Pathway to Independence Award.

Honoring Our Scholarship Donors



We just started a series on SMS social media channels honoring our scholarship donors, we are excited to share the wonderful stories of the individuals who make our scholarships

possible. Please visit our [Facebook Album](#) to read their stories.

SMS is Hiring!

- [Two Open Rank Positions Job#16884 – Materials Chemistry](#).
- [Assistant / Associate / Full Professor -Polymer Chemistry Job #16896](#)
- [Lecturer - General Chemistry \(AY Job #16781\)](#)

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