

SMS Connects

April 2019



Dear SMS community,

Once again, we want to give our sincere thanks to everyone who participated in this year's Sun Devil Giving Day event, whether on campus or online. Every donation made on that day goes directly to our most deserving students.

Only your support can guarantee the continued success of our awards and scholarships, which greatly benefit our students in their quest to become future molecular scientists who will change the world.

If you are curious about some of our current awardees, they will be announced at this month's awards ceremony which will take place on April 22 - read their stories and view their photos in our May newsletter. To learn more about our scholarships, you can visit: sms.asu.edu/giving.

In the News...

Professor Michael O'Keeffe was just awarded the Aminoff prize by the king of Sweden! [read more.](#)



[Read Story](#)

Professors Anne Jones and Ian Gould receive Teaching Achievement Award at 2019 ASU Founders' Day. [read more...](#)



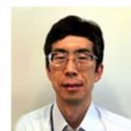
[Watch video](#)



Director
George Stephanopoulos



Co-Director
Hideki Murayama



Chair, Steering Committee
Haruhiko Kusaka



Co-Chair, Steering Committee
Neal Woodbury



[Everett Shock awarded The American Chemical Society \(ACS\)'s prestigious 2019 Geochemistry Division Medal.](#)

[ASU partners with Mitsubishi Chemical Holdings to initiate one-of-a-kind Global KAITEKI Center](#)

SMS welcomes Assistant Professor Christina Birkel



We warmly welcome Assistant Professor Christina Birkel to the SMS family.

Prior to her arrival at ASU Christina held an Athene Young Investigator (junior research group leader) position at the Technische Universität (TU) Darmstadt, Germany (2013-2018). During that time, she also completed her Habilitation in the Department of Chemistry at TU Darmstadt.

She was a postdoctoral researcher in the groups of Professor Galen Stucky and Professor Ram Seshadri at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB, 2011-2013). At UCSB, she focused on the development of non-conventional solid-state synthesis methods to prepare (mostly intermetallic and oxide) energy (e.g. thermoelectric and phosphor) materials. She received her Ph.D. (Dr. rer. nat., summa cum laude) in 2010 with a double-degree from the University of Mainz, Germany and Seoul National University, South Korea working with Professor Wolfgang Tremel and Professor Kookheon Char. Her graduate work involved the wet-chemical synthesis of chalcogenide nanoparticles for thermoelectric applications.

Birkel's current research vision includes the development of new functional materials (2D and 3D) for energy-relevant applications based on rational syntheses and (micro)structure properties.

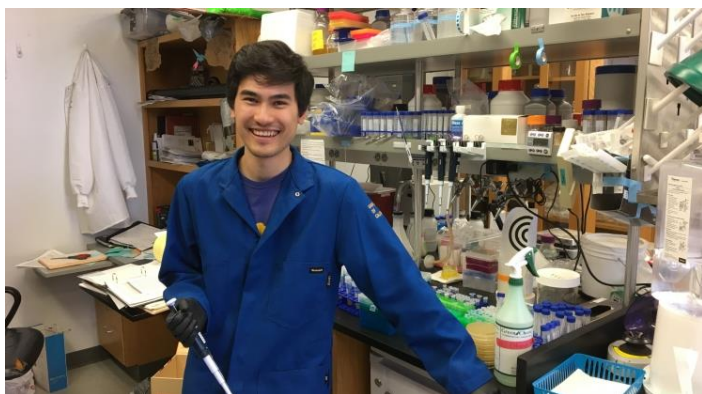
Research Highlights...

- [Programmable 'Legos' of DNA and protein building blocks create novel 3D cages](#)
Nicholas Stephanopoulos — an assistant professor in ASU's Biodesign Center for

Molecular Design and Biomimetics, and the School of Molecular Sciences — and his team built a cage constructed from both protein and DNA building blocks through the use of covalent protein-DNA conjugates.

- **Newsweek:** [Hydrogen Fuel Created From Seawater and Solar Power](#)
SMS Alumnus Mike Kenney with a team of chemists at Stanford University have developed a way to convert seawater, which makes up about 97 percent of water on Earth, into hydrogen. Findings are published in [PNAS](#).

School of Molecular Sciences graduate excels at UC Berkeley

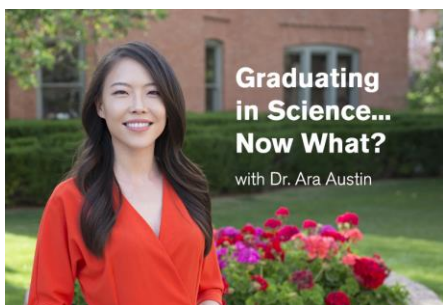


Ryan Muller graduated from ASU in 2015 with a Bachelor of Science degree in medicinal biochemistry with a focus on molecular biosciences and biotechnology. A graduate of Barrett, The Honors College, he won a Goldwater Scholarship — the most prestigious undergraduate scholarship in the natural sciences, mathematics and engineering in the country. Muller is currently a fourth-year doctoral student in the University of California, Berkeley's molecular and cell biology

program.

[Read more...](#)

SMS Career Advice Podcast - New Episode just Published



"Episode 2: International Sales"

Did you know that in the corporate world, science and business often go hand in hand? Join Dr. Ara Austin as she interviews our SMS Alumna Dr. Martha Medina who is using her science background in the field of international sales.

Our next episode is a interview with agents from FBI!
Please stay tuned!

Visit: <https://sms.asu.edu/podcast>.

Employment Opportunities

- [Chemistry Job Resource: Chemjobber](#)
Please check this website periodically to get most up to date job information on chemistry related positions.
- [Summer Internship at Acadia Pharmaceuticals, Inc - San Diego, CA](#)
- [Volunteering and internship opportunities at Mesa Police Forensic Services - Mesa, AZ](#)
- [Job opportunities at Accelerate Diagnostics - Tucson, AZ](#)

Current ASU students can find information on opportunities for paid and unpaid internships as well as part-time and full-time employment on Handshake (<https://asu.joinhandshake.com/postings>).

As always, all job postings from faculty positions, instructor positions, student jobs, to non-ASU positions are listed on our [Employment Opportunities](#) page.

Please feel free to contact 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](#)!

School of Molecular Sciences