



## Congrats to Our Fall 2019 Grads

The School of Molecular Sciences would like to congratulate its fall 2019 graduates for their hard-earned academic accomplishments! This fall, the School of Molecular Sciences graduated a total of 92 undergraduate students in chemistry, biochemistry, medicinal chemistry, or environmental chemistry. Of these, 19 were students in the online BS biochemistry program. In addition, 12 students were awarded PhD degrees and three earned Master's degrees in chemistry and biochemistry. We are proud of all our students and their achievements and we look forward to hearing about their future success!

[Click here to view the full list of SMS Fall 2019 graduates](#)

[Click here to view some photos from graduation](#)

## Meet some of our graduates

### **Carolyn Clark- Dean's Medalist** BS Biochemistry

Carolyn Clark is the School of Molecular Sciences Dean's Medalist for fall 2019. Carolyn is part of the LEAP scholars program (Learning about research, Engaging in Research, Advising in research, and Producing research), funded by the NSF to help transfer students get involved in undergraduate research.

[Read more about Carolyn](#)

[Watch a video of Carolyn talking about her research](#)



## **Kassandra Herndon**

BS Biochemistry

ASU online biochemistry student and full-time mom Kassandra Herndon has reached her goal of earning a Bachelor's of Science in biochemistry. Kassandra chose ASU since the online degree provided the flexibility to meet the demands of family life.

[Read more about Kassandra](#)



## **Katja Klosterman**

BS Biochemistry

Katja Klosterman's story at ASU is all about taking advantage of opportunity and immersing herself in student life.

[Read more about Katja](#)



## **Murtada al Mohsin**

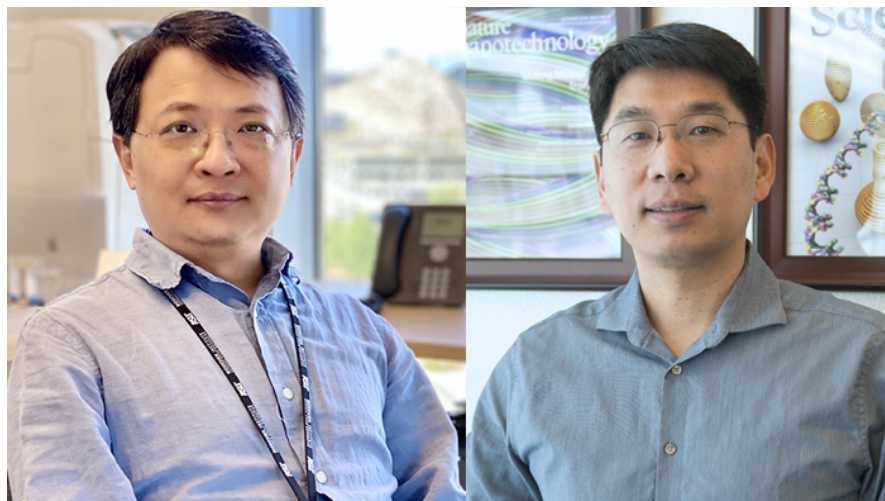
BS Chemistry

Murtada al Mohsin found his way to ASU through the ASU Global Launch Intensive English Program in 2015 and a King Abdullah study abroad Scholarship.

[Read more about Murtada](#)



## In the News: Two SMS faculty named AAAS fellows



Two distinguished SMS faculty members have been named as fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Julian J.L. Chen (biological sciences), for distinguished contributions to our understanding of the function and evolutionary divergence of telomere sequences and telomerase structure in eukaryotes.

Hao Yan (chemistry), for pioneering work and distinguished contributions in structural DNA nanotechnology and molecular self-assembly.

[Read more...](#)

## SMS leadership transition

The School of Molecular Sciences announces a transition in leadership. School Director Neal Woodbury will assume a new full-time position as Chief Science and Technology Officer in Knowledge Enterprise on January 1st. The School will initiate a formal search for a new Director. Until a new Director is identified, Professor Ian Gould will serve as interim Director. Ian has served as Associate Director for the past 5 years.

Under Neal's leadership the School has grown tremendously, particularly in its educational programs, in new faculty hiring, in research initiatives and in modernized research space and facilities. The School has benefited tremendously from Neal's tireless work, creativity and commitment to the School's mission. We wish Neal success in his new position and look forward to working with him on new and emerging research directions.



## Alumni: Gary Aden returns to campus for Homecoming event



Gary Aden, a doctoral student of Peter Buseck in 1981, recently returned to the campus for a Homecoming College Leader's event.

Following ASU, Gary began his career as a staff chemist at Rockwell and later became a staff scientist for Princeton Gamma Tech. In 1986, he became vice president of research and development at Kevex and president and CEO in 1988. In 1991, he joined TopoMetrix as president and CEO. TopoMetrix is a leading supplier of scanning probe microscopes (SPM), and accessories for industry, university, and government laboratories.

He subsequently became CEO of Park Scientific Instruments, a ThermoSpectra company that develops and manufactures AFM systems and probes. The company was acquired by Agilent Technology in 2009. As a musician and videographer (who entertained Peter's group as a grad student), Gary also founded a successful San Francisco-based video/multimedia company.

## Research highlights

### 'Organic' glass is in tech's future

Ranko Richert receives funding to support two projects to study the mobility of molecules in glassy materials.

### Can plants tell us something about longevity?

Julian Chen and Dorothy Shippen from Texas A&M University have unraveled the detailed structure and function of the RNA component of telomerase enzyme from land plants.

### Imaging at the speed of life

ASU researchers are part of the team that has obtained the EuXFEL's first molecular movie, a "mapping," of the ultrafast movement of proteins.

### Geobacter cytochrome OmcZs binds riboflavin: implications for extracellular electron transfer

Graduate student Miyuki Thirumurthy and Anne Jones have described an important model organism for understanding extracellular electron transfer.

### Tuning catalytic bias of hydrogen gas producing hydrogenases

Graduate student Garrett Williams and Anne Jones are part of a team that demonstrated the important role of interactions between the protein environment and the iron-sulfur catalytic sites in hydrogenases.

### Determination of topographical radiation dose profiles using gel nanosensors

SMS graduate student Subhadeep Dutta is part of a team that has described a gel-based nanosensor for the colorimetric detection and quantification of topographical radiation dose profiles in radiotherapy.

[read more SMS News and Research](#)

## **Employment Opportunities**

- [Lecturer – Biochemistry \(Job #15230\)](#) - ASU School of Molecular Sciences
- [Assistant Professor of Chemistry](#) - Southwestern Community College District (SCCD)
- [Environmental Scientist](#) - AZ DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
- [Development Chemist III](#) -SANOFI

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

## New LinkedIn Group for SMS Graduate Alumni and Students- Join us!

SMS graduate students recently created a LinkedIn group named "ASU School of Molecular Sciences Graduate Alumni and Students". We invite you to join the group and become a member of SMS community forever.

[Click here to join](#)



### Happy Holidays!

We hope everyone is having a safe and happy holiday season, and enjoying the beautiful desert winter weather as much as possible. For our students, we hope you enjoy a well-deserved break and we look forward to seeing you back on campus next semester.

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!

