

SMS Connects

May 2019 Graduation Edition



Congratulations to SMS Spring 2019 Graduates!

Monday May 6, 2019 was ASU's Spring 2019 Commencement and Tuesday May 7, 2019 was ASU's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Spring 2019 Convocation and the School of Molecular Sciences' Graduation Reception.

The School of Molecular Sciences would like to congratulate its spring 2019 graduates for their hard-earned academic accomplishments! This spring, the School of Molecular Sciences graduated a total of 211 students. Of these, 14 earned PhD degrees, eight earned Master's degrees, and 189 undergraduate students were awarded Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science degrees in chemistry, biochemistry, medicinal chemistry, or environmental chemistry. During commencement 19 SMS undergraduates were recognized with the Moeur Award, ASU's oldest continuing honor, given to undergraduate students who have attained the highest academic standing during their four-years of undergraduate study. Our students worked hard to complete their rigorous studies and we are proud of their achievements. We look forward to hearing about their future success!

[Click here to view a full list of the spring 2019 graduates.](#)

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

In the News



SMS Junior Wins National Award as an Up-and-Coming Scientist

Madeleine Howell, an SMS junior majoring in chemistry who is already involved in basic research has won a Goldwater Scholarship, the nation's premier award for undergraduates studying science, math and engineering.

Since 2009, SMS has been awarded 10 Goldwater scholarships, which is more than one third of the total awarded to ASU in this time period.

"I am very grateful to the faculty in the School of Molecular Sciences for nurturing my interest in chemistry," explained Madeleine. "I would not be able to do this interdisciplinary research without the fundamental knowledge and tools that they have given me. I am also thankful for the support I have received from SMS through the scholarships and awards that they provide." [read more](#)

SMS Faculty Sweep College Teaching Awards



Each year, The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Arizona State University recognizes exceptional teaching that inspires intellectual curiosity and academic excellence with the Zebulon Pearce Distinguished Teaching Award and the Outstanding Lecturer Award. This year, the recipient of the Zebulon Pearce Distinguished Teaching Award in the Natural Sciences is Professor Anne Jones, and the recipient of the Outstanding Lecturer Award is Ron Briggs, both from the School of Molecular Sciences. [read more](#)

Meet Some of Our Graduates

Zoe Liberman-Martin



Major: Chemistry
[Spring 2019 Dean' Medal: School of Molecular Sciences](#)

Sierra Murphy



Majors: Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology
[Graduate's passion for science and math earns a triple degree — by accident](#)

Meilin Zhu



Major: Biochemistry
[Goldwater Scholar aims to solve global health issues](#)

[watch video](#)

Ntombizodwa Makuyana



Major: Biochemistry
[MasterCard Foundation Scholar, SMS grad inspired to dream bigger](#)

[watch video](#)

Connor Vuong



Major: Biochemistry

[Graduate uses biochemistry opportunities at ASU to forge a path to medical school](#)

Vanessa Davis



Major: Biochemistry

[SMS grad fulfills both her passions as a STEM major and athlete](#)

2019 Awards Ceremony



The 2019 Annual Awards Ceremony hosted by Arizona State University's School of Molecular Sciences was held on Monday, April 22, at Old Main on the Tempe campus to recognize faculty, teaching assistants, research and distinguished students. [read more](#)

[View photos of awardees, presenting faculty and donors and families.](#)

Research Highlights

[Sci-fi evolves into technology with new ASU Center for Materials of the Universe](#)

National Academy member Alex Navrotsky will return to ASU to head a new, one-of-a-kind, Center to study the Materials of the Universe.

[Using DNA templates to harness the sun's energy](#)

In a recent paper published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society, a team of researchers led by Hao Yan, Yan Liu and Neal Woodbury report significant progress in optimizing systems that mimic the first stage of photosynthesis, capturing and harnessing light energy from the sun.

[Melatonin receptor research could point to a better night's sleep](#)

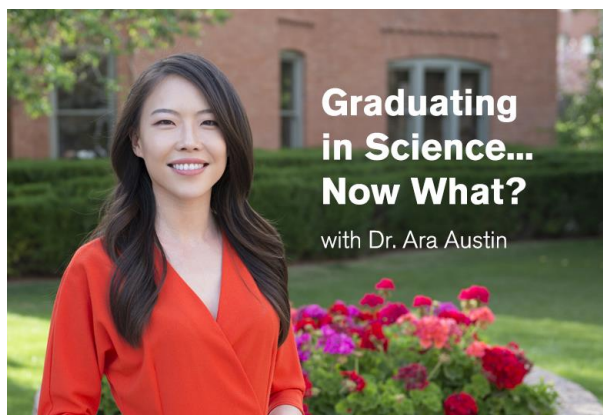
Important findings on the structure of melatonin receptors were described in two articles published in the journal *Nature* by an International team that includes Wei Liu from the School of Molecular Sciences.

[Finding answers to cancer in the cosmos](#)

The Fromme group plans to grow protein crystals under the conditions of microgravity within low earth orbit. The goal is to prepare proteins that offer specific targets for biologically based drugs to fight cancer.

SMS Career Advice Podcast - New Episode just Published

[Episode 3: FBI](#)



What words come to your mind when you think of the “FBI”? Many of you will probably answer - a Special Agent!

You may not be aware, but numerous scientists and science degree holders to join the FBI each year. The FBI also has an internship program for undergraduate students who wish to gain experience within the organization. In this podcast, Dr. Austin interviews Special Agents Erin Gibbs, Sabrina Thompson, and Lori O'Brien about their roles in the FBI. For more information on FBI careers and its Honors Intern Program, please visit: <https://www.fbijobs.gov/>.

Employment Opportunities

[T-Gen would like to hire a Research Associate I \(Job: IRC 14289\)](#)

[The Glendale campus of Midwestern University is looking for a Research Assistant in Biochemistry \(Job ID: RESEA02086\).](#)

[Aurora Biolabs, San Diego, CA – Research Associate 1.](#)

[National Renewable Energy Laboratory, Golden, CO – Postdoctoral Researcher – Biochemist/Biophysicist](#)

[University of Texas, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX - Institute Associate Scientist II – Medicinal Chemistry](#)

As always, all job postings are listed on our [Employment Opportunities](#) page.

Have a great summer!

Thank you all for a wonderful, innovative, and memorable 2018-2019 academic year! We hope you all have a safe and happy summer!

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!

School of Molecular Sciences