

SMS Connects

September 2019



Welcome Class of 2023!

One of the most exciting events of the year, the annual fall welcome for our freshmen students, went off with lots of bangs! Five faculty members from the School of Molecular Sciences gave an exciting and colorful introduction to chemistry for 275 future molecular scientists on Tuesday, August 20, 2019.

Ian Gould, Anne Jones, Jim Klemaszewski (Klem), Stacy Sandler and Will Comar set fire to hydrogen balloons, made “Elephant’s Toothpaste” with ASU colors, dazzled with colorful chemistry in solution and in flames, and created a spectacular indoor cloud of water using liquid nitrogen, to show our incoming Chemistry and Biochemistry majors the magic and beauty of chemistry.

[Check out a video of the chemistry demonstrations!](#)

SMS Early Start Program

Our fall semester is well underway after an eventful and successful summer which included the School of Molecular Sciences' Early Start program, a two-week immersion program that gives incoming freshmen a jump start on their college careers, offering them support and resources such as connections to their peer group and mentorship from upperclassmen, faculty and academic advisors to help them succeed at ASU. The Early Start students and their mentors are pictured above.

Summer Labs for Online Students

Our online biochemistry students gained valuable hands-on technical skills in specially designed concentrated organic chemistry and biochemistry laboratory courses they took on campus in June.

[Click here to see photos of our students in summer labs!](#)

SMS Welcomes New Graduate Students!

In August, the School welcomed its new class of 35 graduate students. They are a diverse group of men and women from 12 different states in the U.S. and overseas from Bangladesh, China, India, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Vietnam. The students just completed an extensive two-week TA Training, learning about the instructional philosophy of our undergraduate programs in addition to an orientation to the PhD program and the research within the School of Molecular Sciences. They now embark on the next set of challenges: finding and settling into a research lab and finding a research topic into which they will pour countless hours and determination for the next several years.

[Click here to meet our new graduate students!](#)

Meet Elizabeth Rapacz, a biochemistry freshman

Early Start Program gives first-year student a jump-start on education



For Elizabeth Rapacz, enrolling in the Early Start program was an opportunity to get a feel for what college life is like, while making valuable connections with her fellow peers, mentors, faculty and academic advisors.

“My parents have expectations and I have expectations for myself, but I don’t really know how this is going to go,” said Rapacz. “But I know that as a freshman, I’m going to make mistakes, and I have to be OK with that since college is just one big learning experience.” [read more](#)

In the News



**Devens Gust
named senior
member of
National Academy
of Inventors**

[read more](#)



**Hao Yan selected
to Fast
Company's 'Most
Creative People
in Business 2019'**

[read more](#)

Research Highlights

[Extracting clean fuel from sunlight](#)

Gary Moore and his group are exploring new technologies that could pave the way to clean, sustainable energy to help meet daunting global demand.

[ASU researchers use new tools of data science to capture single molecules in action](#)

Steve Presse and Marcia Levitus show how Bayesian nonparametrics can be used to increase the time resolution of fluorescence correlation spectroscopy.

[DARPA grants ASU up to \\$38.8 million to create epigenetic tool for fight against weapons of mass destruction](#)

Joshua LaBaer's group aims to develop technology to use a single drop of blood to determine if an individual has been exposed to materials associated with the production of weapons of mass destruction.

[Unlocking the secrets of photosynthesis](#)

The Mazur and Chiu groups take a significant step forward in figuring out the fundamental processes behind process of photosynthesis.

[read more SMS News and Research](#)

Upcoming Events

Fall Eyring Lecture and Reception (November 14 and 15)

The Fall Eyring Lecture Series will be held on Thursday, November 14, and Friday November 15, 2019. This semester's lectures will be delivered by [Steven Boxer](#), Camille Dreyfus Professor of Chemistry at Stanford University. Boxer will deliver a General Lecture on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in PSH 153 entitled "Green Fluorescent Protein - the Green Revolution Continues" and a Technical Presentation on Friday(1:30 pm in Biodesign Auditorium B105) entitled " Electric Fields and Enzyme Catalysis".

We welcome SMS alumni to join us for a reception with Professor Boxer before his General Lecture. The reception will be held on Thursday, November 14, 5:00pm to 6:15pm at the University Club in the Heritage Dining Room. Please RSVP for this event by sending an email to asusms@asu.edu.



Fall Conference on Imaging Molecular Reactions

Nature Research and the ASU Biodesign Institute will co-host a conference on imaging molecular reactions. Some of the world's most accomplished scientific minds will converge on Arizona State University's Tempe campus on November 6, 7 and 8 to explore new methods that make it possible to observe molecules in action.

[Click here to learn more and register.](#)

SMS Weekly Seminars

SMS weekly seminars are held on Fridays at 1:30PM in Biodesign B (BDB) Auditorium B105, [click here to see fall 2019 seminar schedules.](#)

SMS Career Advice Podcast - New Episode just Published

[Episode 7: Cosmetic Chemistry](#)

In this episode, Dr. Austin interviews a cosmetic chemist Mica Oba. Once an aspiring baker, Oba, shares how a trip to Sephora prompted her to become a cosmetic chemist instead. In her spare time, Oba mentors future cosmetic chemists through her website [Geek + Makeup + Wisdom](#), where she shares tips on how to break into the competitive beauty industry.



Scholarship Portal Opened, Apply Today!

Check out <https://sms.asu.edu/admission/undergraduate-admission/scholarships-awards> to find scholarships offered by the School of Molecular Sciences. Applications are currently being accepted for academic year 2020-2021.

Employment Opportunities

[ASU SMS: Associate/Assistant Professor – Materials Chemistry/Thermochemistry Job #14020](#)

[Thermo Fisher Scientific is looking for a Production Scientist II – Advanced Organic Synthesis Chemist.](#)

[Wilmington PharmaTech Company is looking to hire talented and experienced synthetic and analytical chemists who have a passion for research and development.](#)

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

Have a great semester!

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