

the Periodical

Southern Adventist University Chemistry Department



Chemistry Department hires former graduate as new professor

Last summer, the Chemistry Department hired Sarah Pak to fill the position vacated when Professor Nuvia Lawson left to pursue other opportunities at the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Pak completed her BS in Chemistry at Southern Adventist University in 2018 and then pursued graduate studies at the University of Memphis, receiving an MS in Chemistry in 2022 and completing her PhD in Theoretical Chemistry in 2025.

Combining her expertise and research interest in computational chemistry with a passion for undergraduate education, she contributed to the department's work during the 2025-2026 academic year by teaching several classes: Chemistry of Everyday Life, Introductory Chemistry, and labs for General Chemistry and Survey of Health Chemistry.

In addition, she has begun some computational chemistry projects that will help broaden the range of the Chemistry Department's undergraduate research program and provide opportunities for students who are interested in combining interests in chemistry and computer science.



Sarah Pak teaches general education courses and General Chemistry labs for the Chemistry Department.

Science in Challenging Times

Over the past year, changes in government philosophy and policies have substantially challenged the practice of science in the United States.

Funding reductions have halted many research projects, reduced the number of students accepted to graduate programs, and led some scientists to seek employment outside the United States. Immigration policy changes have discouraged or forbidden some qualified foreign students from enrolling in American colleges and universities, prevented others from completing their studies, and reduced the number of skilled scientists available to fill research positions.

Some policy changes appear to be based on political considerations that contradict our best scientific data and



Brent Hamstra

soundest analyses.

The Chemistry Department has been directly affected by these changes. Our graduates have found it more difficult to gain acceptance to graduate programs. The early termination of our federal DHSI grant has resulted in the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding that would have been beneficial in supporting student learning, outreach opportunities, and equipment purchases for our department and other STEM units.

Some of our international students have expressed concerns about their ability to continue their studies here.

Regardless of whether these changes are necessary and wise, the current negative effects are real. Nonetheless, our department is adapting and thriving. Our administration worked to maximize the impact of the remaining DHSI grant funds. Our students

are maintaining their high acceptance rates to graduate and professional schools. We are making decisions with a prosperous future in mind.

Finding faculty members who excel in teaching and research is challenging; we are fortunate to have new faculty member Sarah Pak joining Professors Matthew Duffy and Mitch Menzmer in providing undergraduate research options for our students. We are grateful that both Pak and Professor Suzuki demonstrate our department's ability to produce high-quality graduates who excel in graduate school and are able to contribute to the field of chemistry.

We are planning a substantial remodeling and renovation of the Hickman Science Center in order to expand and update our laboratory facilities so we can improve students' laboratory education and provide dedicated research space.

We pray that God will bless you as He has blessed us.

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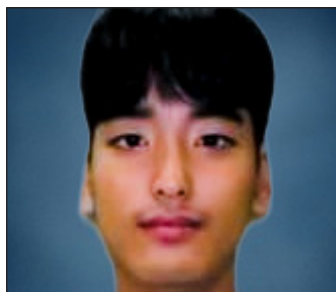
Chemistry Graduates, 2025-2026



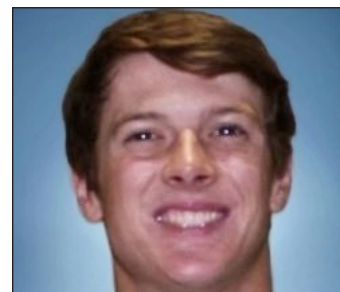
Reanna Bautista, Dec. 2025
BS Biochemistry
*Loma Linda University
School of Dentistry*



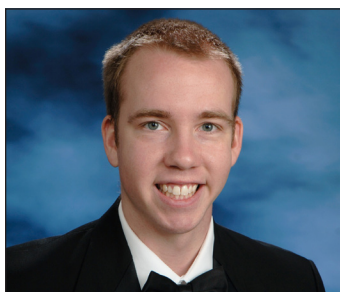
Romany Moussa, Dec. 2025
BS Biochemistry
*Loma Linda University
School of Dentistry*



David Sul, Dec. 2025
BA Chemistry
Attend dental school



Morgan Baldwin, May 2026
BS Biochemistry
*Loma Linda University
School of Medicine*



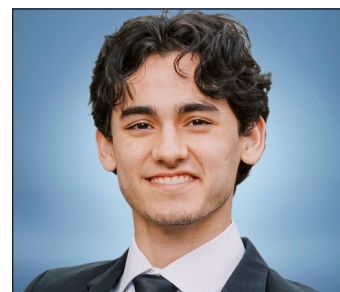
Joshua Bedwell, May 2026
BS Biochemistry
*West Virginia University
School of Medicine*



Marinela Cruz, May 2026
BA Chemistry, BS Math
*Attend graduate school,
pursue a PhD*



Brian Hutabarat, May 2026
BS Biochemistry
*Loma Linda University
School of Medicine*



Joshua Lohr, May 2026
BS Chemistry, BS Physics
*Attend graduate school,
pursue a PhD*



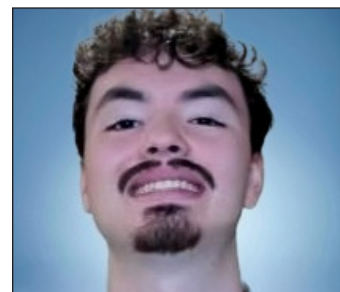
Ashton McClure, May 2026
BS Chemistry
Gap year, medical school



**Yan Poniatovskyi,
May 2026, BS Chemistry**
*Attend University of
Tennessee*



Brooke Reams, May 2026
BS Biochemistry
*Loma Linda University
School of Dentistry*



**Claudio Sandoval,
May 2026**
BS Biochemistry
Gap year, medical school



Kori Stott, May 2026
BA Chemistry
Focusing on work



Maya Wong, May 2026
BS Biochemistry
*Loma Linda University
School of Medicine*

**Congratulations
to our Chemistry
Department
graduates!**

MEET THE FACULTY: Brent Hamstra, PhD

-- PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY --

Where did you get your PhD, in what area of chemistry, and in what year?

University of Michigan, Inorganic Chemistry, 1997

Where else have you worked before coming to Southern?

I served for one year as a post-doctoral researcher at University of Notre Dame.

What attracted you to join the Chemistry Department?

I was interested in a position that would involve teaching undergraduate students, and the idea of teaching at a Seventh-day Adventist institution was particularly appealing. My timeline and Southern's need aligned, and here I am.

-- TEACHING AND RESEARCH --

What courses do you most enjoy teaching, and why?

General Chemistry—it gives me the best opportunities to see students grow in their knowledge of chemistry and to put them on a pathway for future success.

Inorganic Chemistry—the breadth and variety of the subject matter excites me every time I teach this course.

What was the focus of your graduate school research?

I studied the synthesis, characterization, and reactivity of vanadium complexes that are structural and functional models for the roles of vanadium in biological systems.

Can you share a current research project or area of teaching that excites you?



I'm looking toward greater use of activity-based learning in my courses. I've developed a laboratory exercise for Inorganic Chemistry that uses toys to help Southern students better understand symmetry.

I'm also part of a team that has submitted a proposal to the National Science Foundation to explore the use of virtual reality in training STEM professors on how to increase the use of activity-based learning in the classroom.

-- IMPACT AND OUTREACH --

What do you see as the biggest impact of your work at Southern—on students, the field, or society?

I think my biggest impact is in helping students build the foundation for their future success as medical professionals, educators, and chemists.

It continues to be rewarding to see so many former students having such a large impact on people's lives through their healing and teaching ministries. Education is a force multiplier.

How has support from alumni and donors helped advance your teaching or research?

Donor support has been critical in meeting the growing equipment needs of our teaching and research laboratories.

As we move ahead toward renovating and expanding our laboratory facilities and classrooms, the financial support and prayerful encouragement of our alumni and donors will have a massive impact on making our department a place for students who want to learn chemistry.

In 1891, Ellen White wrote: "A knowledge of science of all kinds is power, and it is in the purpose of God that advanced science shall be taught in our schools as a preparation for the work that is to precede the closing scenes of earth's history."

We're living out God's purpose in what we do here, giving our students the knowledge and skills to be able to discern and apply scientific truth.

-- PERSONAL CONNECTION --

What's one memorable moment from your time in the department?

One memorable moment is the day a former student invited me to her baptism, which is an important step on a journey toward God that began with a devotional talk I gave at the beginning of a chemistry class one morning.

Outside of the lab and classroom, what are your favorite hobbies or interests?

I like to read, to watch sports (especially the professional teams from Detroit and my Michigan Wolverines), and to spend time with my wife, son, and daughter. I also stay involved in ministry to youth and university students through Sabbath Schools and other church activities.

MEET THE FACULTY: Bruce Schilling, PhD

-- PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY --

Where did you get your PhD, in what area of chemistry, and in what year?

California Institute of Technology, physical chemistry, 1987

Where else have you worked before coming to Southern?

Amoco Corporation in its Analytical Chemistry Division and Argonne National Laboratory in its Analytical Chemistry Division.

What attracted you to join the Chemistry Department?

I had been downsized from one job and let go from another due to



a lack of grant funding. I needed a job and Southern had an opening, and I figured a teaching job should be fairly stable.

-- TEACHING AND RESEARCH --

What courses do you most enjoy teaching, and why?

My favorite course to teach is General Chemistry.

It is fun working with students who are relatively new to thinking about chemical concepts and watching the light bulb come on when they understand.

What was the focus of your graduate school research?

Hydrocarbon activation by gas phase transition metal monopositive ions.

See SCHILLING, page 12

MEET THE FACULTY: Mitch Menzmer, PhD

-- PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY --

Where did you get your PhD, in what area of chemistry, and in what year?

My doctorate is from Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y., in analytical chemistry in 1989.

Where else have you worked before coming to Southern?

Grand Valley State University, Allegan MI (1989-1990); Pacific Union College (1990-2000); and Southwestern Adventist University (2000-2007).

What attracted you to join the Chemistry Department?

Encouragement from former colleagues and acquaintances from Pacific Union College.

-- TEACHING AND RESEARCH --

What courses do you most enjoy teaching, and why?

General and Physical Chemistry because the opportunity to draw students further into the scientific aspects of God's creation that I find most fascinating.

What was the focus of your graduate school research?

Getting a PhD; I was looking for an opportunity to combine theoretical work with experimental work, specifically in the area of reaction mechanisms, which is what I did and currently do in my Physical Chemistry course and research with students.

Can you share a current research project or area of teaching that excites you?

I have three areas of active research, and they each have exciting aspects: First, continuing study in origins-related topics (specifically the relationship between thermodynamics and living systems); second,



exploring the relationship between development of ideas in scientific methodology and development of ideas in my artistic practice; and third, continuing research with students to establish mechanisms of acid-catalyzed formation of cyclohexenyl cations from small alkenes and/or alcohols.

See MENZMER, page 10

MEET THE FACULTY: Tamie Suzuki, PhD

-- PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY --

Where did you get your PhD, in what area of chemistry, and in what year?

From Syracuse University, in organic chemistry in 2019.

Where else have you worked before coming to Southern?

This was my first position after receiving my doctorate.

What attracted you to join the Chemistry Department?

I completed my undergraduate education here and had an excellent experience that shaped my academic foundation and passion for chemistry. I wanted to return to contribute to the department that invested so much in my development, to support students in the same way I was supported, and to give back to Southern's community.

-- TEACHING AND RESEARCH --

What courses do you most enjoy teaching, and why?

I most enjoy teaching Organic Chemistry, because it is my primary area of expertise. I find it rewarding to help students move past initial intimidation of the course and see organic chemistry as a logical, pattern-based discipline rather than something to be memorized.

By emphasizing mechanisms, problem-solving, and real-world applications, I often see students gain confidence, and even begin to enjoy the material, leading to those "aha" moments when students realize they can truly understand the material. Watching students transform, gain confidence and start thinking like chemists is



one of the most fulfilling parts of teaching Organic Chemistry.

What was the focus of your graduate school research?

My doctoral research focused on the application of trichloroacetimidates to the synthesis of benzylic trichloroacetamides and functionalized indoles.

Can you share a current research project or area of teaching that excites you?

I am excited about continuing to develop and refine my teaching in Organic Chemistry, especially through active-learning strategies that help students engage with challenging material in a meaningful way.

I enjoy creating problem-based activities that emphasize mechanistic thinking and real-world relevance, allowing students to build confidence. I am interested in exploring pedagogical approaches that support student persistence and success in the chemistry curriculum, particularly foundational and gateway courses.

-- IMPACT AND OUTREACH --

What do you see as the biggest impact of your work at Southern—on students, the field, or society?

By helping them succeed academically in challenging coursework while also developing confidence, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, I aim to strengthen their scientific understanding and encourage personal growth, resilience, and a genuine appreciation for learning. In doing so, I hope to prepare students for successful careers in healthcare, research, and service, while helping them become well-rounded individuals who can positively impact society.

How has support from alumni and donors helped advance your teaching or research?

Funding for laboratory equipment, teaching materials, and student engagement initiatives allows me to create more interactive, hands-on experiences in my Organic Chemistry course.

-- PERSONAL CONNECTION --

What's one memorable moment from your time in the department?

Reconnecting with faculty who had mentored me and seeing students experience the same excitement, and even challenges, that I had as an undergrad.

Outside of the lab and classroom, what are your favorite hobbies or interests?

I volunteer at the aquarium to connect with the community and share my passion for science and nature. I also enjoy freshwater fishing and following baseball. Spending time with my growing family, my dogs, and with Jesus is also very important to me.

MEET THE FACULTY: Crystal Glassford, PhD

-- PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY --

Where did you get your PhD, in what area of chemistry, and in what year?

The University of Melbourne, Australia; biochemistry and molecular biology; in 2019.

Where else have you worked before coming to Southern?

Postdoctoral fellow at Johns Hopkins University, Department of Neurology.

What attracted you to join the Chemistry Department?

I was attracted to the Chemistry Department at Southern because of its positive, supportive work environment and its shared mission to lead students to Jesus. I value being part of a department where faculty work collaboratively, care for one another, and are united in using education as a way to serve students both academically and spiritually.

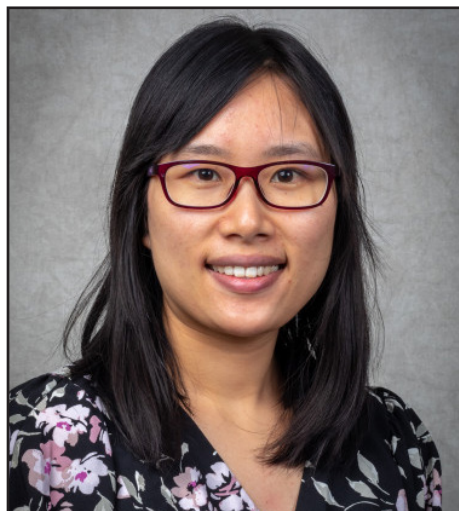
-- TEACHING AND RESEARCH --

What courses do you most enjoy teaching, and why?

I most enjoy teaching Biochemistry, because it allows me to connect chemistry concepts to biological processes in a way that students find meaningful and applicable.

What was the focus of your graduate school research?

My graduate research focused on understanding how an abnormal ataxin-1 protein causes nerve cell damage in Spinocerebellar Ataxia



type 1 (SCA1), a neurodegenerative disease. I studied how this protein interacts with other proteins, and how it can disrupt normal processes inside the cell nucleus, and forms harmful clusters that contribute to disease progression.

Can you share a current research project or area of teaching that excites you?

I am especially excited about teaching Biochemistry, particularly metabolic pathways, because they help students see how individual chemical reactions work together to sustain life.

I enjoy helping students move beyond memorization to understanding how these pathways are regulated, connected, and relevant to health and disease.

-- IMPACT AND OUTREACH --

What do you see as the biggest impact of your work at Southern—on students, the field, or society?

I see the biggest impact of my work at Southern as helping

students grow both academically and spiritually.

By teaching chemistry with clarity, care, and purpose, I work to give students a strong scientific foundation while encouraging them to think ethically, serve others, and deepen their relationship with Jesus as they prepare for their future careers.

How has support from alumni and donors helped advance your teaching or research?

Support from alumni and donors has made a meaningful difference by helping provide updated laboratory equipment and resources for biochemistry and other chemistry labs. These improvements allow students to gain hands-on experience with modern tools, enhance the quality of instruction, and create a better learning environment for both students and faculty.

-- PERSONAL CONNECTION --

What's one memorable moment from your time in the department?

One memorable moment was a vespers at Dr. Schilling's home, where we gathered around the fireplace, shared haystacks, and listened to meaningful reflections on Jesus's love.

It was a simple but powerful experience that captured the strong sense of community and shared faith within the department.

Outside of the lab and classroom, what are your favorite hobbies or interests?

Hiking, cooking, and reading.

Visit us online at www.southern.edu/chemistry

MEET THE FACULTY: Matthew Duffy, PhD

-- PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY --

Where did you get your PhD, in what area of chemistry, and in what year?

I received my PhD in Chemistry at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore in 2013 and focused on organophosphorus chemistry.

I started my PhD at the University of California, Riverside. When my Principle Investigator, Francois Mathey, was offered a position in Singapore, I went with him and officially received my PhD from NTU. I was at NTU from 2008-2012.

Where else have you worked before coming to Southern?

Before coming to Southern in 2018, I was a postdoctoral researcher at the Université de Rennes 1 in France under the supervision of Muriel Hissler. I collaborated with chemical companies, a technological company, and other universities in France to develop organophosphorus compounds with a variety of applications.

What attracted you to join the Chemistry Department?

During my post-doc, I mainly focused on research, but I realized that I missed teaching and connecting with students. I wanted a position where I could teach and do research, and God answered my prayers when a position opened in the Chemistry Department.

-- TEACHING AND RESEARCH --

What courses do you most enjoy teaching, and why?

I enjoy all of the courses I teach, but I think teaching Research in Chemistry is the most exciting. We



are trying to make new molecules that have interesting properties. Several of my students are the first people to make some of the molecules we are working on. Every day is different; sometimes things work, sometimes they don't. Students learn to solve problems, think on their feet, and change direction when needed.

What was the focus of your graduate school research?

My PhD thesis was titled "Advancing the Chemistry of Monovalent Phosphorus." I was generating reactive phosphorus compounds called terminal phosphinidenes. You cannot isolate them, but you can trap these reactive species, as soon as they are generated, with other organic compounds to produce organophosphorus molecules.

Can you share a current research project or teaching area that excites you?

A project we are working on is generating new derivatives of phospholes. Phospholes consist of a five-membered ring with one phosphorus atom and four carbon atoms, containing two carbon-carbon double bonds. Several phosphole derivatives

we have synthesized emit light when excited by UV light or when an electrical potential is applied across them. Molecules such as these can serve as light-emitting materials in organic light-emitting diodes (OLEDs).

-- IMPACT AND OUTREACH --

What do you see as the biggest impact of your work at Southern—on students, the field, or society?

I hope the biggest impact of my work at Southern is in the lives of my students.

I hope they learned, laughed, asked questions, felt cared about, and got closer to God.

How has support from alumni and donors helped advance your teaching or research?

We have purchased teaching and research equipment, which we use daily for students.

We are so grateful for your donations and support, and with your help, we will continue to teach future generations of students not only about chemistry but also about God's love.

-- PERSONAL CONNECTION --

What's one memorable moment from your time in the department?

A former student called and asked me to pray for them when they were at an extreme low point. I was extremely grateful that God put me in their life at the right time to help.

Outside of the lab and classroom, what are your favorite hobbies or interests?

Helping others, learning new things, spending time with family and loved ones, cracking jokes, and having deep conversations.

MEET THE FACULTY: Sarah Pak, PhD

-- PROFESSIONAL JOURNEY --

Where did you get your PhD, in what area of chemistry, and in what year?

I got my PhD in theoretical chemistry (a branch of physical chemistry) at the University of Memphis in May 2025.

Where else have you worked before coming to Southern?

I worked for Status Foods in Nashville as a QA chemist to save up for graduate school.

I have also offered my tutoring services for private students and with Varsity Tutors and Tutor Doctor since 2014.

In addition, I consult for large language model (LLM) companies when I have spare time.

What attracted you to join the Chemistry Department?

The community! I loved my time here as a student, and I'm honored and blessed to be back.

This is where I met God, some lifelong friends that I still have today, and my fiancé.

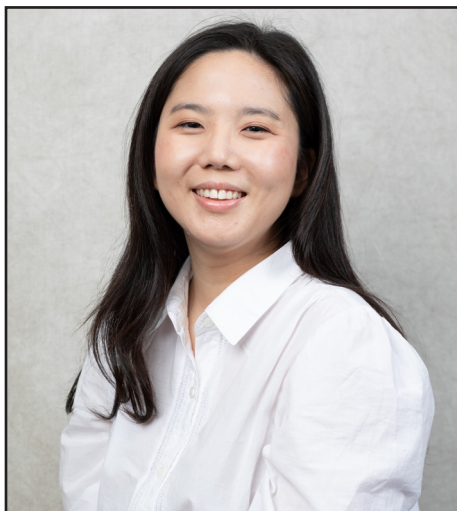
-- TEACHING AND RESEARCH --

What courses do you most enjoy teaching, and why?

Quantum Chemistry/Physical Chemistry is my favorite subject in chemistry and what led me to get a PhD in this area.

I find it beautiful how physical phenomena can be expressed in mathematics, and once you begin to understand that language, the universe almost reads like poetry. Helping Southern students learn how to "read" that language is incredibly rewarding.

I also enjoy General Chemistry, because it's nice to teach the foundation the way I want! Ha ha.



What was the focus of your graduate school research?

My graduate research focused on improving how computers simulate the behavior of transition metal containing molecules.

These molecules are important in many areas like catalysis or material science but are notoriously difficult to model accurately. I developed computational methods that allow scientists to better predict these phenomena and implemented those methods into open-source chemistry software so other researchers can use them in their own work.

Can you share a current research project or area of teaching that excites you?

I am taken with Ensemble Density Functional Theory and would like to contribute to the development of relativistic corrections in this emerging theory.

-- IMPACT AND OUTREACH --

What do you see as the biggest impact of your work at Southern—on students, the field, or society?

I hope to be a visible example of a Christian woman in STEM. That

intersection can sometimes be difficult to navigate, and I certainly am still learning myself.

But I hope my own journey encourages students to find that faith, science, curiosity, rigor, and belief can coexist.

How has support from alumni and donors helped advance your teaching or research?

Support from Southern Adventist University alumni and donors allows me to do this work in a way that reflects our values as well as our academic goals. It allows me to spend more time mentoring students, involving them in research, and creating meaningful learning experiences rather than simply delivering content. It was that very support that shaped my own education here, and I have the privilege of pouring back into our students.

-- PERSONAL CONNECTION --

What is one memorable moment from your time in the department?

One of my favorite moments so far is when one of my students finally got meaningful results after struggling with a research problem for a long time.

As a witness, I cannot express the joy it gives me to see excitement replace the frustration. Those breakthrough moments are what make discovery and research so worth it.

Outside of the lab and classroom, what are your favorite hobbies or interests?

Right now, one of my hobbies is building keyboards. The soldering is still a work in progress.

I also bullet journal when I need a creative outlet.

Biblical Application

Where Is my Palm Tree?

"Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time. And she would sit under the palm tree of Deborah.... And the children of Israel came up to her for judgment."

Judges 4:4-5

I never expected to enjoy the book of Judges so much. It is full of battles and harsh stories, yet this year, as I read it during morning devotions, the story of Deborah encouraged me deeply.

Deborah lived a busy and demanding life. As a judge and prophet in a chaotic time, she carried many responsibilities. She had to settle conflicts, guide the nation, prepare Israel for battle, and most importantly, listen to God. If anyone had a reason to feel overwhelmed, it was Deborah.

But Scripture includes a small, beautiful detail: Deborah sat under a palm tree.

This was her place to meet with God—a place of calm, clarity, and quiet. A place where she could hear His voice above the noise of a troubled nation. Deborah did not lead Israel from emotion or exhaustion. She led from a deep connection with God. Her "palm tree" reminds us that spiritual strength doesn't

come from having extra time. It comes from making sacred space.

So I had to ask myself: Where is my palm tree?

My life has been chaotic for a while. After my first son was born, everything became more complicated. As I write this, I am near to delivering my third baby. Looking back honestly, I want to confess to God. When I accepted Jesus nearly 10 years ago, I used to wake up early every day to spend precious time with Him. I wrote down my devotional thoughts and prayer lists. I filled notebook after notebook with conversations with God.

That good habit lasted until I had children. Then sleep disappeared. Babies cried. My days were full of work and family responsibilities. Instead of meeting God in a quiet moment, I squeezed in devotions when I could, often distracted and tired. I lost my "palm tree." I stopped keeping a prayer list. I just tried to survive each day.

Eventually, I realized I couldn't continue like this. I switched to part-time work, and at the start of 2025, I finally began to feel lighter. I didn't feel as if I were chasing life while forgetting God. And God, knowing my desire to return to Him, arranged my schedule so all

of my classes begin at 8 a.m. That means I have to wake up early.

Now I have a quiet block of time to sit in my special chair, open my heart to God, and start my day with Him again. Praise God; I found my palm tree again!

Like Deborah, I have many responsibilities. Unlike Deborah, I allowed those responsibilities to push God to the side for a while. I had many excuses. But life will always be full—kids, work, home, ministry, expectations. Deborah's story reminds us that wisdom comes from stopping long enough to listen.

Strength comes from God's presence, not our own effort. Courage grows when we take time to hear His voice. If Deborah could sit under her palm tree during a national crisis, we can find our own quiet place, too.

A prayer: "Lord, in the midst of my busy days and responsibilities, teach me to pause and sit in Your presence. Give me the wisdom of Deborah—a heart that listens before it acts. Help me find my own 'palm tree,' a place where I can meet You, hear You, and be strengthened by You. Amen."

By Crystal Zhang Glassford

MENZMER from page 5

-- IMPACT AND OUTREACH --

What do you see as the biggest impact of your work at Southern—on students, the field, or society?

I expect and hope the biggest impact of my work at Southern is the opportunity I have to influence students in their academic, personal, and spiritual journeys.

How has support from alumni and donors helped advance your teaching or research?

I believe that the single most positive thing that Southern alumni and donors can do to help advance my teaching and research is to tell others all the wonderful and amazing things about Southern—especially the way they see God working through Southern to benefit our students.

-- PERSONAL CONNECTION --

What's one memorable moment from your time in the department?

We hired a new colleague who shares the vision of what we do and is excited to be part of it.

Outside of the lab and classroom, what are your favorite hobbies?

I like to spend time creating art, and playing music.

Alumni Spotlight

Ryan Nelson conducts research for Air Force

What years did you attend Southern?

2015-2019

What attracted you to Southern?

Having grown up in eastern Tennessee with parents who attended this university, I was familiar with Southern.

Additionally, the tour I took showed me that the Chemistry Department is friendly and Christ-centered.

Why did you choose chemistry?

The first time I attended chemistry class in high school I thoroughly enjoyed the subject and found that it clicked for me. I soon realized that this was my calling and that God had placed in me an affinity for this fascinating field.

Describe your experience at Southern. What is your favorite memory at Southern?

My experience was highly positive, especially within the Chemistry Department. I found that the academic department challenged me and nurtured my curiosity in chemistry and also, most importantly, it helped me to develop ways I can serve the Lord with the knowledge I gained.

I find it hard to select a single memory as my favorite, but I have many fond memories of the Vespers and Chem Club events. Friday evenings held many peaceful moments, and spending them with friends and family was definitely a highlight.

Where was your favorite place to study?

I spent most of my study time in my dorm room with headphones and my favorite music.

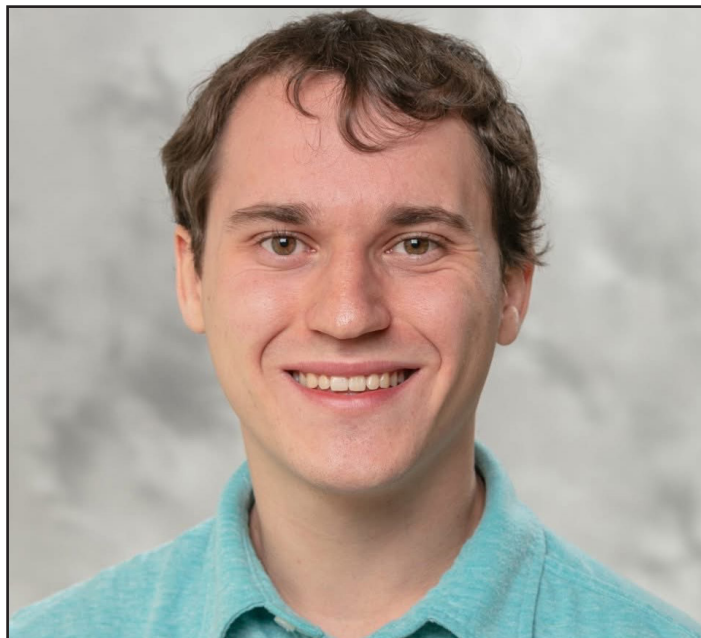
What was your favorite class?

Professor Barry Tryon taught a class about the Life of Christ that was eye-opening and enjoyable. I also really liked Inorganic Chemistry and Quantitative Analysis. The labs for Quant were a lot of fun.

Tell us about your life immediately after Southern.

I started at Ohio State University in the summer after graduation.

There I continued my studies in chemistry to earn a PhD in Solid-State chemistry. I wanted to enter the research field and continue exploring all the things that the Creator made.



What are your plans for the near future?

I currently conduct fascinating solid-state research in optics at an Air Force base in Ohio.

Can you share any experiences at Southern that helped you in your professional and/or personal life?

First, pray about everything (2 Thess 5:17). Second, never be afraid to ask a question. Third, never treat a class or opportunity as irrelevant or unimportant.

What advice do you have for current students who want to make the most of their time at Southern?

Take full advantage of the fact that it is a Christian institution. Other universities are bigger, wealthier, and more prestigious, but I would take a Christian university over an Ivy-league university any day. The power of prestige has nothing on the power of prayer. The power of funding has nothing on the power of faith in Jesus Christ. While fascinating solid-state research in optics at an Air Force base in Ohio exhaustion, take time to enjoy the Sabbath rest. Attend vespers, join Chemistry Club, walk the Biology Trails; just put God at the center of your life (Psalms 46:10). He will prosper your path (see Abraham, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, etc.). I won't promise you it will be easy or what you expected, but if you let God lead, it will be the best path you can take!

To be featured in the Alumni Spotlight, email chemistry@southern.edu.



Power for Mind & Soul

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Matthew Duffy, PhD

Mitch Menzmer, PhD

Sarah Pak, PhD

Tamie Suzuki Kawakami, PhD

Heidi E. Olson, Office Mgr.

SCHILLING from page 5

Theoretical studies of the bonding of transition-metal ions to hydrogen atoms and methyl groups.

-- IMPACT AND OUTREACH --

What do you see as the biggest impact of your work at Southern—on students, the field, or society?

I feel that I have helped the department grow from two faculty members in my second year here with 12 majors to a department with seven faculty members and many more majors I have become lifelong friends with many of my

students, shared my home with them, and spent hours of my life helping them learn both about chemistry and about life.

How has support from alumni and donors helped advance your teaching or research?

Donor support has helped in many ways, including helping provide financial support for many Southern students.

We have also been able to buy instrumentation that is used in numerous labs and to purchase a 3-D printer, which has allowed printing of models to be used in classroom instruction.

-- PERSONAL CONNECTION -- What's one memorable moment from your time in the department?

In addition to having a student sort of adopt my wife and I as a second set of parents in her life, my favorite memories are of blowing up hydrogen balloons and feeding students pumpkin bread.

Outside of the lab and classroom, what are your favorite hobbies or interests?

I love to read. I spend most of my summer working around the home and in the garden.

I also like woodworking and spending time outdoors.

To be added to the mailing list, email chemistry@southern.edu