

Robert G. Iafe, Ph.D.

College of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
333 S. Twin Oaks Valley Rd.
San Marcos, CA 92078
Phone: (760) 750-8283
Email: riafe@csusm.edu
Homepage: faculty.csusm.edu/riafe



Education

- 2011 **Ph.D. Organic Chemistry**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 **M.S. Computational Chemistry**
University of California, Los Angeles, CA
- 2004 **B.S. Chemistry, *Cum Laude*, Honors**
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

Professional and Academic Experience

- 2014–present Assistant Professor of Chemistry
California State University San Marcos, CA
- 2011–2014 Visiting Assistant Professor of Chemistry
WM Keck Science Department at the Claremont Colleges, Claremont, CA
- 2011 Instructor
UCLA Extension, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008–2011 Teaching Assistant Fellow
University of California, Los Angeles, CA

Honors and Awards

- Safety, Health, and Sustainability Safety Champion, 2019
- CSM Award for Outstanding Faculty Student Collaboration, 2019
- Advisor of the Year Tukwut Leadership Award, 2019
- President's Outstanding Faculty Award for Teaching Innovation & Excellence, 2019
- Kerri Mowen Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award, 2018
- Cougars Affordable Learning Materials (CALM) Award, 2018
- CSM Award for Outstanding Faculty Student Collaboration, 2015
- Hanson-Dow Teaching Assistant Award, 2011
- Cram-Winstein Travel Fellowship, 2010
- Winstein Organic/Inorganic Graduate Student Travel Award, 2007
- Regents Stipend Award, 2004
- American Chemistry Society Undergraduate Analytical Chemistry Award, 2003
- American Chemistry Society Undergraduate Organic Chemistry Award, 2002
- Dean's List, Loyola Marymount University, 2000–2004
- Trustee Full Academic Scholarship, 2000

Teaching

Undergraduate Courses

Chemistry 201: Organic Chemistry I

- 2014 Fall (51 students); 2015 Fall (57 students); 2016 Spring (43 students); 2016 Fall (57 students); 2017 Spring (63 students); 2017 Fall (41 students); 2018 Spring (69 students); 2019 Spring (44 students); 2020 Spring (45 students)

Chemistry 201L: Organic Chemistry I Laboratory

- 2014 Fall (20 students)

Chemistry 202: Organic Chemistry II

- 2015 Spring (48 students); 2015 Fall (25 students); 2016 Spring (35 students); 2016 Fall (25 students); 2017 Spring (59 students); 2017 Fall (63 students); 2018 Spring (31 students); 2018 Fall (77 students); 2019 Spring (68 students); 2019 Fall (103 students)

Chemistry 202L: Organic Chemistry II Laboratory

- 2015 Spring (19 students)

Graduate Courses

Chemistry 502: Advanced Organic Chemistry

- 2018 Fall (7 students); 2020 Spring (17 students)

Chief Service Responsibilities at CSUSM

Graduate Program Coordinator: CSUSM Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

- Main point of contact for the department for all things post baccalaureate
- Supervise department staff assignments associated with the graduate program
- Determine work assignments of graduate students
- Liaise with the Dean of Graduate Studies
- Coordinate/Lead an annual assessment of the graduate program for the department
- Graduate Student Advising and Progress to Degree Management

Committee Activities and Other CSUSM Service Items

University/College Service

- Undergraduate Research Faculty Fellow, CUGR Chair, 2019–present
- Graduate Studies Council, Member, 2019–present
- North County San Diego Professional and Interdisciplinary Research Enrichment (*NSPIRE) Program Steering Committee, Co-Chair, 2019–present
- STEM Tutoring and SI Faculty Liaison, 2018
- SI (STEM Center) Program Search Committee, Member, 2017
- Faculty Champion for Teacher Recruitment (FaCTR) Fellow, 2017–present
- California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology (CSUPERB) Faculty Consensus Group (FCG) Member, 2016–present
- Academic Reinstatement Committee, Member, 2015–present
- Committee for Undergraduate Research (CUGR), 2015–present
- Graduation Ceremony Marshal: CSM, CoBA, CEHHS, 2015–present

Department Service

- Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry Seminar Series, Organizer, 2018–2019
- Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry Summer Brown Bag Research Talks, Organizer, 2017–present
- Del Lago Internship Program Advisory, 2017–present
- IST/ET Search Committee, 2016

Student Club Faculty Advisor

American Chemical Society (ACS) Student Affiliate Club, 2014–present
Hygiene Buddies, 2018–present

Significant Service

- Lead Organizer of Southern California Conferences for Undergraduate Research (SCCUR), San Marcos, CA
- Ad-hoc reviewer (PRF, CSUPERB)
- Chair of Chemistry Session at the 2013 California Undergraduate Research Conference in Chemistry and Biochemistry, Claremont, CA

Editorial Boards

- Editorial Advisory Board, *Green Chemistry Letters and Reviews*

Publications (Research Contributions)

(underline denotes undergraduate researcher)

1. [Gold-Catalyzed Friedel–Crafts-like Reaction of Benzylic Alcohols to Afford 1,1-Diaryllkanes](#). Oakley, J. V.; Stanley, T. J.; Jesse, K. A.; Melanese, A. K.; Alvarez, A. A.; Prince, A. L.; Cain, S. E.; Wenzel, A. G.; Iafe, R. G. *Eur. J. Org. Chem.* **2019**, 42, 7063–7066.
2. [Ring Closing Metathesis with Vicinal Dibromoalkenes as Protected Alkynes: A Synthetic Approach to Macrocyclic Enynes](#). Karabiyikoglu, S.; Iafe, R. G.; Merlic, C. A. *Org. Lett.* **2015**, 17, 5248–5251.
3. [Gold-Catalyzed, S_N1-Type Reaction of Alcohols to Ethers and Cbz-Protected Amines](#). Vinson, A. R. S.; Davis, V. K.; Arunasalam, A.; Jesse, K. A.; Hamilton, R. E.; Shattuck, M. A.; Hu, A. C.; Iafe, R. G.; Wenzel, A. G. *Synlett* **2015**, 26, 765–767.
4. [Increasing the Efficiency of the Transannular Diels-Alder Strategy via Palladium\(II\)-Catalyzed Macrocyclizations](#). Iafe, R. G.; Kuo, J. L.; Hochstatter, D. G.; Saga, T.; Turner, J. W.; Merlic, C. A. *Org. Lett.* **2013**, 15, 582–585.
5. [Cyclization Strategies to Polyenes Using Pd\(II\)-Catalyzed Couplings of Pinacol Vinylboronates](#). Iafe, R. G.; Chan, D. G.; Kuo, J. L.; Boon, B. A.; Faizi, D. J.; Saga, T.; Turner, J. W.; Merlic, C. A. *Org. Lett.* **2012**, 14, 4282–4285.
6. [Origin of Stereoselectivity in the Imidazolidinone-Catalyzed Reductions of Cyclic \$\alpha,\beta\$ -Unsaturated Ketones](#). Gutierrez, O.; Iafe, R. G.; Houk, K. N. *Org. Lett.* **2009**, 11, 4298–4301.
7. [Bifurcations on Potential Energy Surfaces of Organic Reactions](#). Ess, D. H.; Wheeler, S. E.; Iafe, R. G.; Xu, L.; Celebi-Olcum, N.; Houk, K. N. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2008**, 47, 7592–7601.
8. [Intramolecular Hetero-Diels-Alder Reactions of Imine and Iminium Dienophiles: Quantum Mechanical Exploration of Mechanisms and Stereoselectivities](#). Iafe, R. G.; Houk, K. N. *J. Org. Chem.* **2008**, 73, 2679–2686.
9. [Stereoselectivity Control by Torsional Steering in an Intramolecular Diels-Alder Reaction of Vinyl Oxocarbenium Ions](#). Iafe, R. G.; Houk, K. N. *Org. Lett.* **2006**, 8, 3469–3472.

Presentations/Panel Discussions

- Faculty Panel Discussion, *Faculty Mentoring Program (FMP) Graduate School Panel*, California State University San Marcos, CA, November 7, 2019.
- Invited Faculty Guest, *Bridges Open House Program*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 11, 2019.
- Invited Faculty Lecture, *SLP 662: Fluency Disorders*, California State university San Marcos, CA, October 4, 2019.
- Lunch Table Discussion Leader, *Future Faces of STEM: San Diego County SACNAS Regional Meeting*. University of San Diego, CA, September 21, 2019.
- Faculty Panel Discussion, *Pizza, Professors, and Possibilities*, California State University San Marcos, CA, April 11, 2019.
- Invited Faculty Lecture, "Organic Chemistry Research @ CSUSM: Undergraduates Rising Up to the Challenge," *President's University Council*, California State University San Marcos, March 28, 2019.
- Invited Faculty Guest, *Bridges Open House Program*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 19, 2018.
- Faculty Panel Discussion, *Pizza, Professors, and Possibilities*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 18, 2018.
- Invited Faculty Lecture, *SLP 662: Fluency Disorders*, California State university San Marcos, CA, September 24, 2018.
- Lunch Table Discussion Leader, *Future Faces of STEM: San Diego County SACNAS Regional Meeting*. University of California, San Diego, CA, September 22, 2018.
- Faculty Panel Discussion, *Faculty Mentoring Program (FMP) Graduate School Panel*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 23, 2018.
- Invited Faculty Guest, *Bridges Open House Program*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 27, 2017.
- Faculty Panel Discussion, "Professional Life of a Faculty Member," *Campus Connect*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 7, 2016.
- Faculty Panel Discussion, "Professional Life of a Faculty Member," *Campus Connect*, California State University San Marcos, CA, December 11, 2015.
- Invited Faculty Lecture, GEL 101: The Student, The University, The Community, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 28, 2015.
- Invited Faculty Guest, *Bridges Open House Program*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 9, 2015.
- Faculty Panel Discussion, *Discover CSUSM*, California State University San Marcos, CA, April 11, 2015.
- Invited Faculty Guest, *Bridges Open House Program*, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 10, 2014.
- Invited Faculty Lecture, GEL 101: The Student, The University, The Community, California State University San Marcos, CA, October 1, 2014.