



# CHEMISTRY CAREER TALKS

Monday, March 3

2:00 – 4:00 P.M.

Science 147



## Alumni Speakers:

**DAVID BRYCE** | Evident Scientific

**STEPHANIE CONN** | Virgil Gamache Farms, Inc.

**HECTOR CASIQUE** | Washington State Department of Ecology

# ALUMNI SPEAKERS



## DAVID BRYCE

**Current Title:** Applications Specialist

**Current Employer:** Evident Scientific

**Time at Current Job:** 2.5 years

**Degrees:** BS Chemistry, CWU 2012  
PhD Analytical Chemistry,  
University of Utah 2018

David started his endeavor into chemistry as an undergraduate student at Central Washington University, where he worked in Dion Rivera's lab studying polyelectrolyte-surfactant complex formation. After graduating David completed a post-bachelors research assistantship at Pacific Northwest National Lab, developing spectroscopic methodology for monitoring organic contaminant partitioning in water-supercritical CO<sub>2</sub> systems.

David holds a PhD in analytical chemistry from the University of Utah, awarded 2018, where he worked for Joel Harris. During his graduate studies David worked to adapt Raman microscopy techniques to study phospholipid systems, characterizing model phospholipid bilayers deposited in chromatographic silica supports, and utilizing these to detect and quantify protein and signaling peptide association.

Presently David is an Applications Specialist for Evident Scientific (formerly Olympus Life Sciences) covering camera-based research microscopy systems. He initially made his way from his graduate research to Olympus as a service engineer, utilizing optical systems experience and analytical problem solving skills developed in building Raman and TIRF microscopes as a graduate student. David transferred from field engineering to his current applications role where he works to meet the needs of researchers with a wide variety of experimental needs.

David hopes to share experiences covering his experiences and roles prior to entering an industry position, as well as insight on balancing remote/field based work with life, and finding enjoyment in solving technical problems.

# ALUMNI SPEAKERS



## STEPHANIE CONN

**Current Title:** Lead Chemist

**Current Employer:** Virgil Gamache Farms, Inc.

**Time at Current Job:** 9 years

**Degrees:** BS Biochemistry CWU 2012

Stephanie started her college career at Central with the intent to head to medical school. Soon after taking chemistry at CWU, she switched her major to Biochemistry with a secondary major in Cell and Molecular Biology. Rather than medicine, Stephanie found her passion leaned more toward understanding natural products synthesis and metabolic pathways. After CWU, Stephanie attended Washington State University, where she worked as a research assistant in a lab specializing in enzyme reactions and drug metabolism and graduated with a Master's degree in Chemistry in 2015.

Stephanie currently works as the Lead Chemist at Virgil Gamache Farms, Inc in its lab, HopTechnic®. She heads up the small (but mighty) lab, runs analyses, and coordinates with hop growers and brewers from across the globe to meet their lab testing needs. Hops, and agriculture in general, are a melting pot

of different facets of science, from plant protection materials and agronomics to natural products chemistry and yeast biotransformation. Monitoring harvest readiness and hop quality is a continuously evolving process that allows her to apply chemistry principles in real time to change the outcome of a product.

For those looking to pursue careers in chemistry, don't hesitate to look at different avenues outside the common. There are applications for chemistry in almost every sector, even if it may be a bit more unconventional than what you're used to. Sometimes, unconventional places offer unique experiences and a chance to take your interests to places you'd never expect.

# ALUMNI SPEAKERS



## HECTOR CASIQUE

**Current Title:** Project Manager

**Current Employer:** Washington State Department of Ecology

**Time at Current Job:** 3 years

**Degrees:** BS Chemistry CWU 2012  
MS Chemistry CWU 2015

Hector Casique is an environmental professional with a background in chemistry and project management. He graduated from Central Washington University in 2015 with a Master of Science in Chemistry, where he worked as a research assistant and laboratory assistant, gaining foundational experience in analytical chemistry and laboratory operations.

He began his professional career in Quality Control at Moses Lake Industries, where he gained further hands-on experience in analytical methods before transitioning into the public sector.

Hector first joined the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), where he focused on environmental testing, specifically pesticide residue analysis. As a senior scientist, he played a role in developing and implementing a standardized pesticide screening test for Cannabis and Hemp, enhancing regulatory oversight in the industry.

In 2022, Hector advanced to the Washington State Department of Ecology, where he now serves as a project manager, overseeing cleanup efforts focused on legacy pesticide contamination in soil through the Former Orchard Lands project.

With over a decade of experience spanning public service, chemistry, and environmental regulation, he remains dedicated to protecting natural resources and developing sustainable solutions for complex environmental challenges.

As you look ahead in your careers, Hector offers this:

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*Keep your eye on the goal—work hard to achieve it. And if you find yourself wanting more, embrace the experience and grow from it.*

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## Degree Options

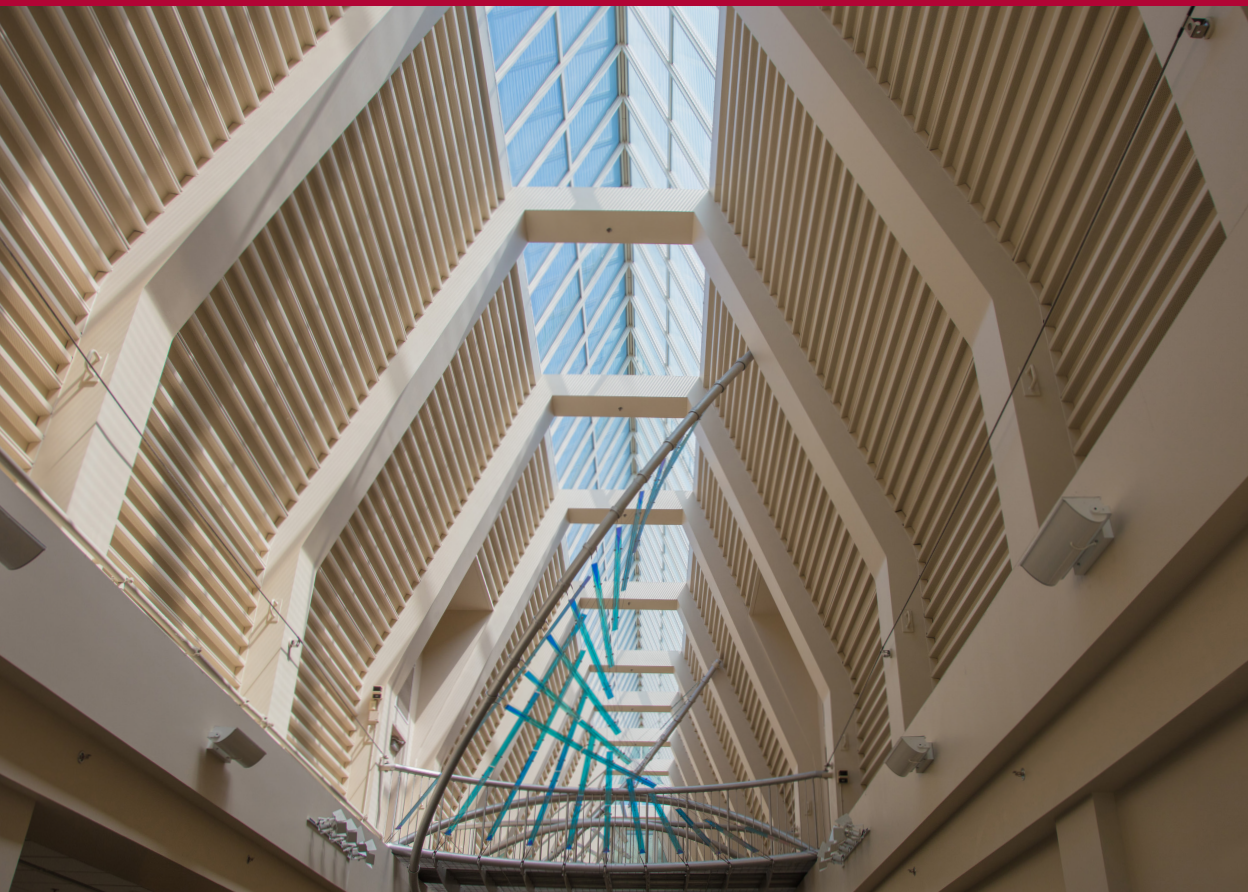
- Bachelor of Science Chemistry
- Bachelor of Science Biochemistry
- Bachelor of Arts Chemistry
- Bachelor of Arts Biochemistry
- STEM Teaching Minor
- Master of Science Chemistry

## Get Involved

- Serve as a Teaching Assistant
- Join a Research Group at CWU
- Be active in Chemistry Club
- Tutor in chemistry
- Explore internships
- Get summer research experience

[cwu.edu/chemistry](http://cwu.edu/chemistry)

**EXPLORE CHEMISTRY AT CWU**





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