

# SAMUEL D. YOUNG

1600 Huron Pkwy., B28-2100E  
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Mobile: (860) 786-2056  
Email: [samueldy@umich.edu](mailto:samueldy@umich.edu)  
Website: <https://samueldy.github.io/>

---

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Michigan, College of Engineering (Ann Arbor, MI)** **2018–Current**  
***Ph.D. Candidate in Chemical Engineering***

- Third-year student in the Goldsmith Computational Modeling Laboratory. Currently using black-box and interpretable machine learning tools and density functional theory (DFT, a quantum-mechanical computational approach) to build active machine learning workflows for catalyst discovery.
- 2018–2019 Fellow of the Michigan Institute for Computational Discovery and Engineering

**University of Michigan, College of Engineering (Ann Arbor, MI)** **Dec 2020**  
***Master of Science in Chemical Engineering***

- Cumulative GPA: 4.00/4.00
- Two-time recipient of a research computing allocation from the National Energy Research Scientific Computing Center (NERSC), totaling 1.75M service units.

**Cornell University, College of Engineering (Ithaca, NY)** **May 2016**  
***Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering***

- Graduated *magna cum laude* (cumulative GPA: 3.83/4.00)
- John McMullen Scholar
- Three-time recipient of a Semiconductor Research Corporation research grant
- Extracurricular activities: Cornell University Symphonic Band

---

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

---

**University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI)** **2018–Current**

- Currently developing algorithmic workflows using active machine learning to study effective nitrate reduction alloy electrocatalysts for wastewater remediation.
- Performed 1837 DFT calculations on bimetallic alloys of 5 metals and am currently training a crystal graph convolutional neural network to predict adsorbate binding energies.
- Conducted an exhaustive DFT study of 108 simulations to predict how strongly nitrogen and oxygen atoms bind on platinum-ruthenium alloys. The results support trends observed by our experimental collaborators.
- Studied the vacuum-phase stability of rhodium sulfide surfaces using DFT. Conducted 26 simulations to predict which surfaces are most stable. This is the first known prediction of these stable surfaces.

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (Edgewood, MD)** **2017–18**

- Synthesized and characterized the structure and reactivity of 2 metal organic framework (MOF) catalysts identified for possible activity against toxic chemical agents.

**Cornell University (Ithaca, NY)** **2012–13, 2015–16**

- Completed preliminary development of a laser interferometer to monitor real-time fuel cell corrosion growth, including a LabVIEW-based data acquisition and control system.
- Imaged over 70 regions of nitride thin film samples with conductive probe atomic force microscopy (cp-AFM) to identify a robust fuel cell catalyst support material, leading to an article in *Chemistry of Materials*.

---

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

---

**U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (Edgewood, MD)** **2016–18**

- Developed a Microsoft Access database application to track progress of Army unit chemical detector equipment upgrades, including dependency resolution, rapid data input, and compliance reporting.

- Managed routine testing of 134 air compressors across 59 active-duty, Reserve, and National Guard Army units. Developed a Microsoft Access database application to track tests and produce compliance reports.
- Collaborated with the Japan Ministry of Defense to design and manufacture a new chemical detector, including attending 3 face-to-face conferences, coordinating two months of testing, and planning over 450 test trials.

---

## DEPARTMENT AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

---

### University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) 2019-current

- Current chair on the committee that plans each year's department-wide chemical engineering graduate symposium. The symposium showcases current students' work, leads to hiring opportunities, and strengthens the department's relationships with industry partners.
- Adjudicated an undergraduate poster session and provided feedback to help students improve their scientific communication skills.

### U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (Edgewood, MD) 2017

- Adjudicated 2 science fairs at Cecil County public schools. Provided feedback to 16 students to help raise interest in STEM fields.

---

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

### University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) 2019-current

*ChE 505 – Applied Mathematics for Chemical Engineering* Fall 2021

- Currently serving as a graduate student instructor. Responsibilities include writing homework assignments, proctoring and grading exams, weekly office hours, and one-on-one student mentoring.

*ENGR 1000-320 – Practical Data Science for Engineers* Fall 2020

- Served as a graduate student instructor for a class of 44 students to help teach a data science course with an emphasis on machine learning. Responsibilities include facilitating laboratory exercises for 2 sections of 22 students each, holding weekly office hours, and grading homework.

*ChE 505 – Applied Mathematics for Chemical Engineering* Fall 2020

- Served as a graduate student instructor for a class of 41 students. Responsibilities included writing 9 homework assignments, proctoring and grading 2 exams, holding weekly office hours, and one-on-one student mentoring.

*ChE 496 – Advanced Special Topics in Chemical Engineering* March 2019

- Helped teach a class of 12 undergraduate students a lecture about machine learning in March 2019. Developed a laboratory assignment and held office hours to help students practice basic machine learning.

---

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

---

### University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, MI) 2019-current

- Mentored three undergraduate students in density functional theory, machine learning, and high-throughput screening for materials informatics, leading to a preliminary machine learning model for predicting chemisorption on metal alloys.
- Currently mentoring a master's student on applying crystal graph convolutional neural network models to chemisorption energy prediction.

### U.S. Army Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (Edgewood, MD) 2017-2018

- Trained 2 employees to perform major responsibilities within 3 active projects in our branch, including preparing 40 pages of training documentation, creating 4 standard operating procedures, and running 3 live training sessions to teach other members of my team.
- Helped select 4 new contractor employees for our team, including offering informational interviews, touring candidates around the workplace, and assisting in the interview process.
- Planned social and recreational activities to help new employees feel welcome.

---

## PUBLICATIONS

---

- Danielle Richards, Samuel D. Young, Bryan R. Goldsmith, Nirala Singh. Electrocatalytic nitrate reduction on rhodium sulfide compared to Pt and Rh in the presence of chloride. *Catalysis Science & Technology* **2021**, advance article. <https://doi.org/10.1039/d1cy01369f>.
- Samuel D. Young, Amitava Banerjee, Ghanshyam Pilania, Bryan R. Goldsmith. Perovskite Oxynitrides as Tunable Materials for Electrocatalytic Nitrogen Reduction to Ammonia. *Trends in Chemistry* **2021**, in press.
- Zixuan Wang, Samuel Young, Nirala Singh, Bryan Goldsmith. Increasing Electrocatalytic Nitrate Reduction Activity by Controlling Adsorption through PtRu Alloying. *Journal of Catalysis* **2021**, 395, 143–154. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jcat.2020.12.031>.
- Danielle Richards, Samuel Young, Nirala Singh, Bryan Goldsmith. Electrocatalytic Nitrate Reduction on Pt/C, Rh/C, and Rh<sub>x</sub>S<sub>y</sub>/C: Effect of Chloride. Unpublished work.
- James R. O’Dea, Megan Holtz, Anna Legard, Samuel Young, *et al.* Conductivity and Microstructure of Combinatorially Sputter-Deposited Ta–Ti–Al Nitride Thin Films. *Chemistry of Materials* **2015**, 27 (13), 4515–4524. <https://doi.org/10.1021/cm504599s>.

---

## CONFERENCE TALKS AND POSTERS

---

- Zixuan Wang, Samuel D. Young, Nirala Singh, Bryan Goldsmith. “Platinum-Ruthenium Alloys As Electrocatalysts for Efficient Aqueous Nitrate Reduction”. 2021 AIChE Annual Meeting, 16 Nov 2021.
- Danielle Richards, Samuel Young, Nirala Singh, Bryan Goldsmith. “Rhodium Sulfide Electrocatalysts for Electrocatalytic Nitrate Reduction”. ACS Fall 2021 Meeting, 26 August 2021.
- Zixuan Wang, Samuel Young, Nirala Singh, Bryan Goldsmith. “Platinum-Ruthenium Alloys as Electrocatalysts for Efficient Aqueous Nitrate Reduction”. ACS Spring 2021 Meeting, 13 April 2021.
- Samuel Young, Jin-Xun Liu, Zixuan Wang, Danielle Richards, Nirala Singh, Bryan Goldsmith. “Understanding Metal Alloys and Rhodium Sulfides as Electrocatalysts for Nitrate Reduction”. Poster presentation given at University of Barcelona, August 2019.
- Samuel Young, Ryan Dwyer, John Marohn. “Interferometric Measurement of Thin-Film Corrosion in Fuel Cell Materials”. Poster presentation given at Cornell University, April 2016

---

## SKILLS

---

- **High-throughput computing:** Slurm, PBS/Torque, Fireworks
- **Data analysis and Machine Learning:** Python (NumPy, SciPy, Matplotlib, Pandas, scikit-learn), MATLAB, Microsoft Excel, LabVIEW
- **Databases:** MongoDB (PyMongo), JET SQL, Microsoft Access (VBA, DAO interfaces)
- **Scripting:** PowerShell, Visual Basic for Applications (VBA), Python, Bash
- **Atomistic modeling:** Atomic Simulation Environment, Pymatgen, Vienna Ab Initio Simulation Package
- **Chemical characterization:** FTIR, UV-Vis, PXRD, tapping and conductive probe AFM