A chemistry flask with red liquid being added to a multi-well plate. The flask has markings for 0.5 mL, 1.0, and 1.5. The multi-well plate is blue and has many wells. The background is a solid blue color.

# CHEMISTRY CAREER TALKS

Monday, February 26

2:00 – 4:00 P.M. PST

Science 147

## THE PROGRAM

### Alumni Speakers:

**MEAGAN ANSINGH** | Lilly

**ALEX HANDLEY** | Dunham Cellars

**LEIF JACOBSON** | Schrodinger Inc.



## MEAGAN ANSINGH

**Current Title:** Senior Executive Territory Manager Immunology

**Current Employer:** Lilly

**Time at Current Job:** 18 years

**Degree:** BS Chemistry, CWU 2006

Meagan Ansingh chose a degree in the sciences and specifically Chemistry because of her love of understanding how the universe works, now realizing we barely know a thing. Her goal was to attend medical school as it was always a dream to help people in some capacity. After spending time in the research lab and under the mentorship of a professor who had spent time in the pharmaceutical industry, she made a right turn and changed career aspirations.

Meagan has held a variety of roles at Lilly and all of them included helping people, from educating physicians and other healthcare professionals to helping patients get access to medication. She has worked in different business units including Neuroscience, Men's Health, and currently Immunology where she represents biologic medications changing the lives of patients living with chronic autoimmune diseases. Having

a degree in Chemistry has helped her connect and gain trust quickly with her customers. It also allows her to work in the training department developing new materials and work with incoming employees during their onboarding process. Meagan has also taken part in a leadership training program where she learned invaluable lessons in leading people and how the business is run from an enterprise perspective.

The pharmaceutical industry is one of the most rapidly growing and adapting industries. It's an industry where people from all backgrounds come together for a common purpose, to develop medicine that helps people live longer, happier, healthier lives. Meagan encourages you to find a career that plays to your strengths and passions. Keep an open mind for your next steps as you can truly find a place in any industry where your degree and experience will be valued.

**ALEX HANDLEY****Current Title:** Assistant Winemaker**Current Employer:** Dunham Cellars**Time at Current Job:** 3 years**Degrees:** BS Chemistry, minor math, minor sociology, CWU 2016

Alex declared her major in chemistry early on and picked up a couple of minors along the way. After her first year at CWU, she became a chemistry TA and discovered a passion for teaching. Helping engage her peers in chemistry and seeing them make connections was fulfilling. Nearing her graduation the idea of the wine industry being an area to use her chemistry knowledge was pitched and she decided to look into it. After accepting an Enology Chemistry Research position in California, she gave wine a try without knowing anything about it. Five wineries, two states, and eight years later she continues to apply her chemistry skill set daily while expanding her knowledge in the world of wine.

Alex is currently in a winemaking role at Dunham Cellars. She helps make winemaking decisions, runs all the analysis for the winery, and mentors her team. Wine has proven to be one giant research project. There is a vast array of chemistry in every step of the process, from grape to bottle. Wine is a great way to watch science unfold in real time, as it is always changing and evolving.

For future chemistry graduates starting to think about where their degree may take them, be willing to take a chance and try something new. Chemistry is in every industry. Thinking outside the box and being open to the plethora of possibilities may help you discover new passions and interests. It did for Alex.

**LEIF JACOBSON**

**Current Title:** Senior Principal Scientist

**Current Employer:** Schrodinger Inc.

**Time at Current Job:** 10 years

**Degrees:**

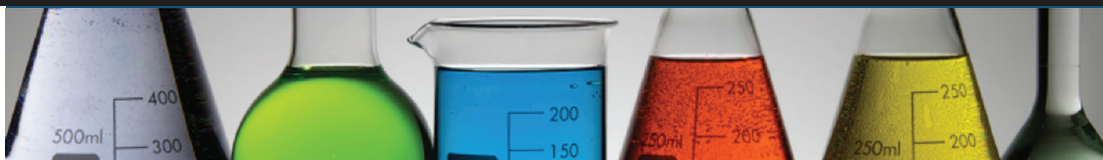
BS Biochemistry, CWU 2002

PhD Theoretical Chemistry, Ohio State University 2012

Leif Jacobson graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry and Biochemistry from Central Washington University in 2002, studying physical organic chemistry in the lab of JoAnn Peters. After a brief but exciting career as a downhill ski enthusiast in the northern Rocky Mountains he pursued a PhD in theoretical chemistry at Ohio State University under the supervision of John Herbert. He focused on the development of electronic structure methodologies, graduating in 2012.

He was then a postdoctoral fellow at Yale University and studied nonadiabatic phenomena at metallic surfaces under John Tully. Leif joined Schrodinger Inc. in 2013 as a Senior Scientist working on electronic structure methods, principally on automation of transition state search and reactivity based workflows. He is now a Senior Principal Scientist and leads a research group that develops machine learning based force fields and their application in life and materials sciences.





## 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)**

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