

Dr. Stephen A. Kolodziej (BA 1987, PhD 1992)

Steve is an Associate Research Fellow at Pfizer, Inc., in St. Louis. After graduation from Rudi Winter's research group, he did postdoctoral work at Washington University School of Medicine and then joined Monsanto as a Research Associate. After just over one year he became Senior Research Investigator, Group Leader and Associate Fellow and finally Associate Fellow with the company as it morphed through Searle, Pharmacia into Pfizer. Like many of our current students, Steve transferred to UMSL from the St. Louis Community College and went on to great success. He participated in one of the College of Arts and Sciences *Hellen and Will Carpenter Series on Contemporary Issues in American Society Lectures* in 2015. In 2012 he began collaborating with Curators' Distinguished Professor of Chemistry Alexei V. Demchenko. Alexei is a carbohydrate chemist and his work related to the polysaccharides, chains or sheets of sugar molecules bonded together. Sugars are very useful in facilitating drug delivery and Steve and Alexei have been investigating capsular polysaccharides in this respect. The collaboration has led to substantial funding from Pfizer for the Demchenko Laboratory and to a series of peer-reviewed publications coauthored by the two. This collaboration has been going on for quite some time. One of Steve's hobbies is music - he is the bass guitarist for the group *Roofrockers*.