

CHEMUNITY & CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY  
DEPARTMENT PRESENT:

## “THE GAME OF CHEM”

DR. ZACHARY THAMMAVONGSY  
SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE

FRIDAY, MAR. 22, 2024. 11AM - 12PM  
RM. 8 - 48



**Abstract:** *Navigating the intricacies of a chemistry graduate program can often feel like a game. However, unlike conventional games, graduate school lacks a well-defined set of rules. For Dr. Zachary Thammavongsy, his roadmap was defined by robust mentorship and a steadfast support network.*

*Dr. Zachary Thammavongsy, a first-generation college graduate, relied extensively on his surrounding academic community to help navigate his chemistry journey. Dr. Thammavongsy obtained his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Western Washington University under the guidance of Dr. John Gilbertson and pursued his Ph.D. at the University of California, Irvine under the mentorship of Dr. Jenny Yang. Throughout his doctoral program, Dr. Thammavongsy also embarked on an entrepreneurial venture by establishing d-Orbital Games, an endeavor that served to contribute to the field of chemistry education. After graduating with his PhD, Dr. Thammavongsy started his postdoctoral fellowship at Chapman University before starting as an assistant professor at Santiago Canyon College in 2023.*

*d-Orbital Games has garnered a noteworthy set of achievements, including global sales of over 1000 copies of chemistry games, publications in ACS education journals, and accolades from international gaming forums. In the realm of chemistry, Dr. Thammavongsy has been honored with awards, such as the 2021 ACS LEADS, 2020 ACS CAS Future Leaders, 2018 UCI Most Promising Future Faculty Member, and 2018 UCI Chemistry Most Promising Future Chemistry Teacher.*

*During Dr. Thammavongsy's presentation, he will share relevant insights connecting his scholarly pursuits with his entrepreneurial endeavors, while emphasizing the importance of strong mentorship and a solid support system. Attendees can anticipate a blend of anecdotes from his graduate school experience, demonstrations of chemistry games, and opportunities to win chemistry-themed prizes.*

*Pizza will be provided, and Dr. Thammavongsy will meet with interested students for Q&A following the seminar in 8-344.*