

# POLY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

American Chemical Society  
Division of Polymer Chemistry, Inc.



**2024 POLY Chair**  
**Dawanne Poree**

It is my honor and distinct privilege to serve as the 2024 Chair of our Division. I would like to thank the immediate Past Chairs, Allan Guymon and Semra Colak Atan, for their guidance, leadership, and mentorship over the past two years. Their dedication and commitment to the Division is inspiring. Even as Past Chairs, they continue to work towards a better and more effective POLY! I'd also like to thank the other members of our Chair's Team, Chair-Elect Laura Stratton and Vice Chair Derek Patton, for their service and commitment to the Division. It has been my pleasure to serve along side you this year. Your insight and passion have truly been invaluable to my early tenure as POLY chair. I would be remiss to not thank our incredible administrative staff, Kathy Mitchem and Carlee Black, who are really the heartbeat of all that we do.

The Spring ACS meeting in New Orleans showed the remarkable "flavors" of polymer science as evidenced by the breadth of symposia offered. Thanks to symposia organizers and our incredible Programming committee (Levi Moore, Dannielle Haase, and Julia Kalow), POLY had an excellent slate of programming throughout the meeting! A particularly notable feature of this meeting was having our poster sessions near our oral symposia. Instead of the large Tuesday evening poster session in the convention center (as we've traditionally done in past meetings), we held smaller poster sessions in our host hotel, spread out over several days. This led to increased visibility and accessibility of the posters and, as remarked by many of our membership, enhanced the quality of the poster presentation experience. As this elevated poster session is in line with ACS' desire to provide innovative programming as we move towards a smaller footprint, we will strive to build upon this initiative for future meetings as space permits.

At the Spring meeting, I also had the honor of recognizing the incredible achievements of several of our members for their impact on the field of polymer science and their dedication to the Division. Please join me in congratulating our awardees for Spring 2024. I look forward to recognizing others at our Fall Meeting in Denver.

Finally, I'd like to thank you for your continued support of the Division both in your membership and your efforts. If you have yet to do so, I encourage you to consider joining our team of volunteers who work tirelessly to enhance POLY and carry out our mission of "empowering a community of polymer scientists to meet the global challenges of today and the future". POLY has ten committees that provide a breadth of resources to educate and empower our membership. We are pleased to now feature a "Volunteer" interest form on the POLY home page. This is an easily accessible way to express the ways you'd like to get involved.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fall meeting in Denver where we will continue to explore ways to elevate chemistry!

## POLY Strategic Goals

1. Grow a robust, diverse, and engaged global organization that encompasses the broader polymer enterprise.
2. Provide a portfolio of resources to educate and empower our members to thrive in the polymer enterprise.
3. Effectively communicate the importance and activities of the polymer community to our members.

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PoWER Conf.

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MARCO Edu.

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National Mtg.

Councilors' Rpt.

Grad. Symp.

Undergrad. Symp.

## Upcoming

July 1  
Carl S. Marvel  
Award Deadline

July 11-12  
PoWER  
Conference

Aug. 18-22  
Fall ACS  
Hybrid National  
Meeting

Sept. 29-Oct. 2  
Advances in  
Polyolefins  
Workshop

October 30  
YIPS Award  
Deadline

November 1  
Herman F. Mark  
Award Deadline

# POLY/PMSE PLENARY & AWARDS PROGRAM

The POLY/PMSE awards reception was held Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at the ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, LA honoring outstanding achievements by its members. POLY Chair, Dawanee Poree, had the pleasure of congratulating the Spring POLY awardees.



## POLY/PMSE Plenary Speaker

**ANDREW J. LOVINGER, NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION**

*Lessons Learned from Three Decades at the Helm of Polymers at NSF*



## Paul J. Flory Polymer Education Award

**CHARLES MCCORMICK, UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI**

*Career adventures in polymer science - challenges, opportunities, and expectations in helping build academic teaching and research programs at USM*



## 2023 Past Chair

**ALLAN GUYMON, UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Recognition of Dedication of Leadership as 2023 Chair of the Division of Polymer Chemistry



## Distinguished Service Award

**SARA ORSKI, NIST**

For exceptional leadership as POLY Programming Chair 2020-2023



## Special Service Award

**KATHY L. MITCHEM, POLY BUSINESS OFFICE**

For years of dedicated service and unwavering commitment to the Division, and for going above and beyond the call of duty in 2023

## 2024 POLY Fellows

**JOHAN FOSTER** (University of British Columbia), **JAIME GRUNLAN** (Texas A&M University), **MICHAEL MEADOR** (NASA Glenn Research Center (Retired)), **EMILY PENTZER** (Texas A&M University), **RODNEY PRIESTLEY** (Princeton University), **CHRISTOPHER STAFFORD** (NIST), and **ROBERT WAYMOUTH** (Stanford University)



## POLY Members Recognized for receiving ACS Awards



### ACS AWARD IN POLYMER CHEMISTRY EUGENIA KUMACHEVA, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

*From fundamental polymer properties to advanced materials with diverse applications*



### EARLE B. BARNES AWARD FOR LEADERSHIP IN CHEMICAL MANAGEMENT DAVID PARRILLO, DOW CHEMICAL COMPANY

*People, business, and Technology:  
An integrated strategy for leadership in the chemical industry*



### NATIONAL FRESENIUS AWARD MAXWELL J. ROBB, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

*Polymer mechanochemistry and molecular design: A celebration*

## THANKS TO OUR PLENARY SPONSORS

ACS APPLIED  
POLYMER MATERIALS

ACS Macro Letters

ACS POLYMERS Au BioMACROMOLECULES

Macromolecules

CALL FOR PAPERS

SUBMIT YOUR MANUSCRIPTS TO THE POLYMER COMMUNITY'S FAVORITE JOURNALS

ACS Publications  
Most Trusted. Most Cited. Most Read.

American Chemical Society

## UPCOMING POLY AWARDS

-Nominate Outstanding Colleagues-

### Carl S. Marvel Award for Creative Polymer Chem. Award

Application Due: 7/1/2024

*Recognize & encourage  
accomplishments and/or innovation  
of unusual merit in the field of basic  
or applied polymer science by  
younger scientists.*

### Young Industrial Polymer Scientist Award

Application Due: 10/31/2024

*Recognize outstanding industrial  
innovation & creativity in the application  
of Polymer Science, conducted by  
young individual scientists.*

### Herman F. Mark Polymer Chemistry Award

Application Due: 7/1/2024

*Recognize, encourage, & stimulate  
outstanding achievements by an  
individual in promoting undergraduate  
or graduate polymer education.*

### POLY Fellows Award

Application Due: 11/30/2024

*Recognize, encourage, & stimulate  
outstanding achievements by an  
individual in promoting undergraduate  
or graduate polymer education.*

### Outstanding Poster Award

Judged during POLY Sci-Mix

Poster Session

Sponsor: Springer/MRS  
Communications

For complete  
award information  
scan the QRC  
or visit:  
[https://polyacs.org/  
awards/](https://polyacs.org/awards/)



## Graduate Student Travel Award



William Johnson  
Mississippi State University

Lynn Stevens  
University of Texas at Austin

Sponsor



## POLY Poster Awards

Sponsors

**SPRINGER NATURE** MRS **Communications**



Pictured left to right:  
D. Poree, A. Pathan, J. Bowman,  
and R. Advincula

**Jared Bowman, University of Florida**

*Ultrafast Xanthate-Mediated Photoiniferter Polymerization-Induced Self-Assembly (PISA)*

**Bradley A Swan and Laura Lo, Iowa State University**

*Exploring Diels-Alder Synthesized Poly(Phenylene): Insights Regarding Synthesis and Reaction Kinetics*

**Arsalaan N. Pathan, University of Akron**

*Chemi-Mechanical Recycling of Post-Consumer Recycled Plastics*

## General Paper Awards



Pictured left to right:  
C. Leo, D. Poree, and P. Morris

**Nicodemo Ciccia, University of California, Berkeley**

*Mechanistic Insights into the Catalytic Amination of Polyethylenes*

**Courtney Leo, Florida State University**

*A Modulated Approach to Sulfonated Polypentenamers Using Acetyl Sulfonation*

**Parker Morris, University of California, Santa Barbara**

*Novel Networks for Next Generation Pressure Sensitive Adhesives Ionic*

**Pengfei Zhang, KAUST**

*Living/Controlled Anionic Polymerization of Glycolide in Fluoroalcohols: Toward Sustainable Bioplastics and Pentacrystalline Quintopolymer*

**POLY Awards  
Committee**

**Committee Chair  
Alan Hopkins**

[Alan.R.Hopkins@aero.org](mailto:Alan.R.Hopkins@aero.org)

**Jeff Ting**

[jeff@nanitebio.com](mailto:jeff@nanitebio.com)

**Toby Nelson**

[toby.nelson@okstate.edu](mailto:toby.nelson@okstate.edu)

**Additional  
Information**

[CARLEEL@VT.EDU](mailto:CARLEEL@VT.EDU)

[https://polyacs.org/  
AWARDS/](https://polyacs.org/AWARDS/)

*The Awards Committee is unable to solicit individual nominations and serve to select awardees. In order for POLY to provide a diverse awards recipient list, we need YOU to nominate outstanding scientists.*

2023 Election Results - 23% membership participation

Approved election slate below. Election will go live in October 2024.

An email will be sent to voting members containing login instructions.

Keep your contact information up-to-date! Send updates directly to [SERVICE@ACS.ORG](mailto:SERVICE@ACS.ORG).

## Officer Duties

**Vice-Chair Duties:** Support the Chair and Executive Committee of the Division while acting as liaison for Division Committees. Become familiar with operations of the Division to prepare for the functions of Chair-Elect and Chair in succeeding years. Attend Executive Committee meetings and promote the interests of members, committees, and Executive Committee.

**Member-At-Large Duties:** Serve as an active voting member of the POLY Executive Committee during a 3 year term. Functions as the principal communication link between membership and Executive Committee. Responsible for membership recruitment and retention activities. Seeks out new benefit options while monitoring ongoing services. Communicate with membership to keep them informed of Division opportunities. Coordinate membership committee meetings.

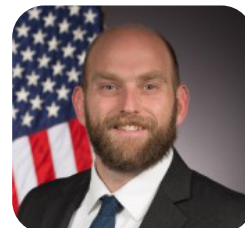
**Councilor Duties:** Councilors represent the Division at an ACS level. Once elected, ACS assigns the Councilor an ACS committee(s) on which to serve. The Councilors attend committee and ACS Council meeting, held during ACS National Meetings, to provide input to represent the Division. They serve as an active voting member of the POLY Executive Committee. A Councilor provides helpful feedback to Division Officers and the membership in regard to ACS level activity. POLY elects both academic and non-academic officers independently to best represent the broad interests of Division's membership.

**Alternative Councilor Duties:** During a 3 year term, be available to replace or fill in if a Councilor is unable to fulfill their duties at a National ACS Meeting. Attend POLY Executive Committee meetings and provide the Councilor's report, if absent. Become informed on National and Divisional issues in order to serve as needed. Carry out specific assignments as requested by the POLY Division Chair, Councilor, or serve on committees as needed.

## Vice Chair Candidates



**Hayley Brown**  
Dow Chemical Co.



**Levi Moore**  
AFRL

## Member-At-Large Candidates



**Oleg Davydovich**  
Sandia National Lab.



**Piri Ertem**  
Claros

## Councilor Candidates



**Wei Gao**  
Dow Chemical Co.



**Mary Ann Meador**  
NASA Glenn (Retired)

## Alternate Councilor Candidates



**Tomonori Saito**  
ORNL



**Yoan Simon**  
Arizona State

Go online to <https://polyacs.org/elections/> to see election history, officer duties, and other election information

# POLY INDUSTRIAL ADVISORY BOARD

The POLY Industrial Advisory Board is branching out and growing! We've recently a range of new member companies reflecting the breadth of POLY industrial participation. Welcome Cascade Biocatalysts, Citrine Informatics, Enthought, Polymerize, and Waters. We're working with the division as well to support member-specific benefits including the development of career resources; IAB is supporting the development of two workshops around initiating careers and about career pivots. This is in addition to our continued support for POLY career panels, including an undergraduate career panel recently hosted as a part of the Spring 2024 National Meeting.

In the Spring 2024 National Meeting in New Orleans IAB continued to support technical programming via organizer support for the Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science Symposium, supporting the Undergraduate Research Symposium and Excellence in Graduate Research Symposium, and providing financial support for 2 Graduate Travel Awards. We also were grateful to see everyone in person for the IAB Social and the IAB Business Breakfast. We also are working to support ACS overall in the Lab Safety Teams initiative; for additional details, please reach out to the IAB contacts below.

Looking to the future and Denver Fall 2024, we're excited to continue with these events and forms of support. IAB members from Dow, Enthought, and Nanite have organized a new POLY symposium on "Elevating the Power of Data for Materials and Chemical Scientists in Industry," with support and cross-listed with PMSE and CINF. We also want to highlight an editorial in the open-access journal ACS Polymers Au, "Finding Professional Growth and Fulfillment for Early-Career Polymer Scientists and Engineers in Industry," that highlights POLY IAB activities and new initiatives. We are always looking for industrial volunteers who are interested in engaging with the division around career development resources specific POLY. Please reach out if you're interested!



**Hayley A. Brown**  
Dow Chemical Company  
POLY IAB Chair 2024



**Jeff Ting**  
Nanite  
POLY IAB Co-Chair 2024

## JOIN IAB

IAB would like to invite you to join us to ensure that you and your company have a voice in divisional education, awards, and programming. For more information, visit <https://polyacs.org/iab/>

## UPCOMING IAB AWARD

**Deadline:** 10/31/2024  
**Young Industrial Polymer Scientist Award** recognizes outstanding industrial innovation and creativity in the application of Polymer Science, conducted by young individual scientists.  
Info at:  
<https://polyacs.org/young-industrial-polymer-science-award/>



## IAB COMPANIES

ARKEMA



Cascade  
Biocatalysts

CITRINE  
INFORMATICS



EASTMAN

Enthought

GLAUKOS  
TRANSFORMING VISION

Milliken

Nanite

Polymer Chemistry  
Innovations, Inc.

Polymerize

Rochal  
INDUSTRIES LLC

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The LenS™<sub>3</sub> MALS and the LenS<sub>3</sub> MALS-V light scattering / viscometry dual detector offer a tailored solution for SEC-MALS and triple detection.




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Our team of chromatography experts provides polymer scientists with solutions to develop and characterize safe materials for the future.

**TOSOH BIOSCIENCE**  
**SEPARATION  
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 [info.tbl@tosoh.com](mailto:info.tbl@tosoh.com)

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Tosoh Bioscience is a registered trademark, and EcoSEC Elite and EcoSEC are trademarks of Tosoh Corporation.  
LenS is a trademark of Tosoh Bioscience LLC.

### Advances in Polyolefins

September 29 - October 2, 2024

Rohnert Park, CA USA

Organizers: Klosin, Register,  
Wagener, & Soares

REGISTER AT:

<https://www.polyacs.net/24aporegistration>

### Fluoropolymer 2025

June 22-25, 2025

Savannah, GA USA

Organizers: Ameduri, Leibfarth,  
McCullum, & Parrish

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS:

MARCH 1, 2025

<https://polyacs.org/25fluoropolymers/>

### National Graduate Research Polymer Conference 2025

March 18-21, 2025

Arizona State University

*Polymer Sustainability: Diverse Strategies for  
Addressing Global Challenges*

Organizers: S. Eileen Seo and Timothy Long

Registration/Website/Abstract:

Watch for updates on [polyacs.org/workshops](https://polyacs.org/workshops)

### Polymers for Fuel Cells, Energy Storage, and Conversion 2025

November 2-5, 2025

Safety Harbor, FL USA

Organizers: Benicewicz,  
Hickner, & Zawodzinski

Registration/Website/Abstract:

Watch for updates on [polyacs.org/workshops](https://polyacs.org/workshops)

For more information or to propose a new workshop for 2026 or 2027, please contact the Workshop Committee Chair Beth Elacqua ([eze31@psu.edu](mailto:eze31@psu.edu)) or Kathy Mitchem ([kathyl@vt.edu](mailto:kathyl@vt.edu)) in the POLY Business Office.

## POLYMER WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & RESEARCH

As of May 2023, women comprised 21% of POLY members and less than 20% of corresponding authors in Macromolecules. Even the Polymers GRC, a remarkably inclusive conference by the standards of chemistry, comprised 42% women in 2023. This disparity creates an environment in which women give fewer talks, ask fewer questions after seminars (PLOS ONE 2018, 13, e0202743), gain less exposure, and grow their professional networks less. Research shows that women particularly benefit from networks that include other female leaders (PNAS 2019, 116, 2033). By holding a conference dedicated to women and gender minorities in polymer science, the Polymer Women Empowerment and Research conference will foster community, share cutting-edge scientific results, highlight women's contributions and voices, and address issues pertinent to women and gender minorities in polymer science.

The inaugural conference will take place at Northwestern University on July 11-12, 2024. The conference will include eight research talks, three workshops, twelve lightning talks, a DEI-focused discussion, and a poster session. Registration is rolling and will be capped at 150 attendees. Once the conference meets 150 registrants you can join the waitlist at <https://forms.gle/gBDC5x8CZsawFPAL9>. For more information, please visit <https://polymerwomenempowermentresearch.com>.





## LIVE WEBINARS AND YOUTUBE POSTS

The POLY-sponsored ACS Webinar, "Unbreakable Design: The Polymer Mechanochemistry of Self-healing Materials," was held on November 16, 2023. The webinar was given by Prof. Jeffrey Moore of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and Prof. Stephen Craig of Duke University and was moderated by Prof. Junpeng Wang of University of Akron. Prof. Moore introduced the progress of polymer mechanochemistry over the past two decades. Prof. Craig shared examples of materials-chemistry interplay in polymer mechanochemistry.

Another POLY-sponsored ACS Webinar, "Better Ion Transport Through Polymer Chemistry: Polymer Electrolytes and Ion-conducting Membranes" was held on February 8, 2024. The webinar was featured by Prof. Alexei Sokolov of Oak Ridge National Laboratory/University of Tennessee, Knoxville and Prof. Michael Hickner of Michigan State University and was moderated by Dr. Xi Chelsea Chen of Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Prof. Sokolov provided an overview of the microscopic mechanisms controlling ion transport in polymer electrolytes and highlighted recent advancements in the design of polymer electrolytes. Prof. Hickner discussed the structure-property relationships of proton and hydroxide conducting polymer membranes.

The most recent POLY/ACS webinar was held on May 2, 2024. Prof. Julien Nicolas of Institut Galien Paris-Saclay, University Paris-Saclay, and Prof. Jia Niu of Boston College presented on "Better Biodegradable Vinyl Polymer Materials by Improving Radical Ring-Opening Polymerization (rROP)," and moderated by Prof. Josh Worch of Virginia Tech.

The webinars are organized by the POLY Webinar committee composed of Tomonori Saito, Brent Sumerlin, Rebecca Olson Short, and Bob Lambeth. The committee welcomes your ideas for topics and speakers for future webinars.



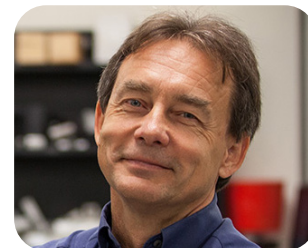
**Stephen Craig**  
Duke University



**Jeffrey Moore**  
University of Illinois  
Urbana-Champaign



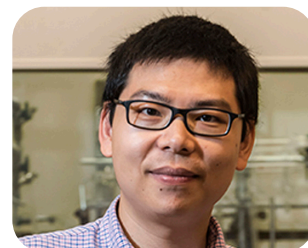
**Michael Hickner**  
Michigan State  
University



**Alexei Sokolov**  
ORNL/University of  
Tennessee, Knoxville



**Julien Nicolas**  
Institut Galien  
Paris-Saclay



**Jia Niu**  
Boston College

**View Past POLY Webinars on YouTube**

**View POLY/ACS Co-Sponsored Webinars**

CONNECTING WITH POLY  
MEANS CONNECTING WITH  
YOUR COMMUNITY

**POLY E-LIST**

<https://polyacs.org/poly-electronic-discussion-list/>

**POLY WEB**

[www.polyacs.org](http://www.polyacs.org)

[@POLY\\_ACS](http://www.twitter.com/POLY_ACS)



[www.facebook.com/ACSPOLY/](http://www.facebook.com/ACSPOLY/)  
"ACS Division of  
Polymer Chemistry"



<http://bit.ly/youtubepoly>  
"ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry"



[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)  
"Division of Polymer Chemistry"

## SIGN UP TODAY!

The discussion list is a great way to inform others and receive information about upcoming symposia, workshops, job positions, share questions and answers, and more. The list is available to all POLY members who choose to sign-up.

To sign up, sign off, or change e-mail address . . .

Go to: <https://polyacs.org/poly-electronic-discussion-list/>

## MACRO REPORT

The Macromolecular Alliance for Community Resources and Outreach (MACRO) is jointly sponsored by the POLY and PMSE technical divisions. Cochairs Philip Costanzo (POLY) and Elizabeth Sterner (PMSE) lead a group of volunteers offering professional development events and resources, generating curricular modules for undergraduate chemistry courses, and developing a repository of polymer-based outreach activities. All of these resources can be accessed through the MACRO website at <https://macro-poly-pmse.org/>. We are currently undergoing a web-page makeover and an updated site should be available by July 1st.

Curricular resources consist of lecture slides (PowerPoint and PDF) for use in the classroom and a paired instructor support document that contains additional background information, suggested pedagogy, and a list of further resources. Slides with voiceover and videos are also available. To date, the modules available include basic definitions and concepts, fundamentals of polymer synthesis (condensation polymerization of acyl functional groups, addition polymerization of alkenes, and polymer stereochemistry), polymer characterization (FTIR, NMR, and SEC), exploration of polymer molecular weight, and introductory viscoelasticity. Part of the website update will include the posting of new modules and formats. The Curriculum subcommittee has two initiatives for this summer: solicit new topics and identify collaborators for developing new modules in polymer physical chemistry and biochemistry. Interested members should send an email to [esterner@lvc.edu](mailto:esterner@lvc.edu).

The Professional Development section of the MACRO website contains a number of resources for polymer chemists and scientists from the undergraduate to early career researchers (academic and otherwise), including advice on applications, interviews, grants, and group management. Bhavya Singhi manages an ongoing series of professional development events. In November she moderated a Web panel on "Undergraduate Career Pathways". Upcoming in June will be another panel on "Volunteering outside the Lab". If you would like to volunteer or suggest topics for future Web Panels, please send an email to [bsinghi@zeusinc.com](mailto:bsinghi@zeusinc.com).

On the Outreach page, we've begun to create a depository of materials for individuals to be able to spread their passion and knowledge of science to the general population. MACRO launched an interface where individuals can share what they are currently utilizing in their communities and receive appropriate recognition for their contributions to the Polymer community. We've begun to solicit individuals to create content and have posted several modules. We recently hosted an outreach competition at the 2024 National Spring ACS meeting in New Orleans. Several submissions were received and \$1,000 was distributed. These activities will be posted on the newly updated MACRO page. New developments: In collaboration with the POLY/PMSE student chapters, MACRO will be running an Outreach Pilot program. Each student chapter will be eligible to apply to a funding pool of \$5,000 for financial support to host an outreach event. The goal of this program is to produce shareable content to be displayed upon the MACRO website. Entries will be reviewed and will receive feedback on the preparation of materials to be distributed. Please direct any contest questions to Phil Costanzo ([pcostanz@calpoly.edu](mailto:pcostanz@calpoly.edu)). Full details on the pilot program and application materials are expected to be distributed via email to Chapters by 1 JUN 24.

### MACRO TEAM



**Philip Costanzo**  
CAL POLY



**Liz Sterner**  
Lebanon Valley College

*Report submitted by: Elizabeth S. Sterner  
and Philip Costanzo  
Contributing: Madhura Pade and Bhavya Singhi*



### INTERESTED IN A POLY/PMSE STUDENT CHAPTER?

Student Chapters are student run organizations affiliated with the POLY and PMSE division, that provide networking and development opportunities to students and post-doctoral associates in the polymer field.

Funding can be used to host speakers for a myriad of opportunities that can help the chapter grow!

Learn more at: <https://polyacs.org/student-chapters/>

## MEMBER-AT-LARGE REPORT



Member-At-Large  
Katrina Knauer  
kmk06f@gmail.com

POLY serves as a vital hub for professionals, researchers, and students interested in polymer science and engineering. As part of its mission to promote the advancement of polymer chemistry and provide support to its members, POLY continually assesses its membership landscape and seeks innovative initiatives to enhance engagement and foster professional development. This report outlines the current status of POLY membership and introduces a new mentoring program designed to benefit students and early-career mentors within the division. POLY membership serves as a barometer of the division's vibrancy and relevance within the polymer community. Over the past year, POLY has experienced small growth in its membership base. This growth reflects the continued interest and enthusiasm surrounding polymer chemistry and its applications across various disciplines. Despite this positive trend, POLY recognizes the importance of continuously evaluating and enhancing its membership experience to meet the evolving needs of its diverse constituency.

POLY student chapters remain vibrant and influential, with a network spanning over 15 chapters and a continuous expansion of our impact at the student level. This year, we proudly acknowledge the exceptional efforts of three student chapters: Colorado State University (CSU), the combined chapter of Florida State University (FSU) and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU), and the University of Minnesota. CSU, under the leadership of President Ethan Quinn, stands out for its remarkable organization of events such as "Polymer Day." This event serves as a testament to their commitment to engaging both local high schools and universities. Featuring a lineup of esteemed guest lecturers, captivating laboratory demonstrations, and a stimulating poster session with enticing monetary prizes, CSU's Polymer Day exemplifies their dedication to fostering academic excellence and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration within the polymer science community.



CSU Student Chapter Meeting  
Photo Credit: POLY/PMSE CSU  
Student Chapter Twitter

### Introduction of the POLY Mentoring Program:

In response to the expressed needs of its members, POLY is excited to announce the launch of a new mentoring program aimed at fostering meaningful connections and providing valuable guidance to students and early-career mentors within the division. The POLY Mentoring Program seeks to leverage the collective expertise and experience of seasoned professionals to support the development and success of emerging talent in polymer science. POLY plans to launch this new program at the national ACS meeting in Denver, CO in August.

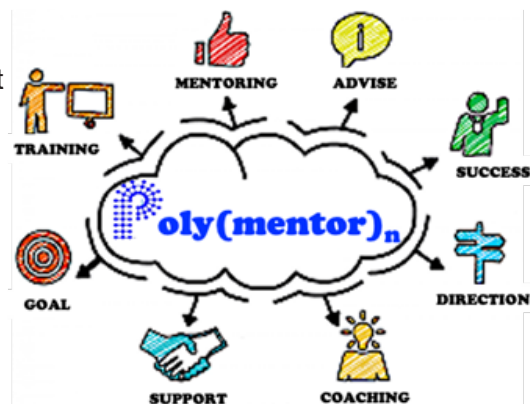
### Key Features:

**Structured Mentorship Pairings:** Facilitate structured mentorship pairings between experienced mentors and mentees based on shared interests, career goals, and areas of expertise. Mentors will provide guidance, advice, and support to mentees, helping them navigate challenges and capitalize on opportunities in their academic and professional journeys.

**Customized Mentorship Plans:** Develop a customized mentorship plan tailored to the specific needs and objectives of the mentee. This may include career development strategies, research guidance, networking opportunities, and skill-building exercises designed to enhance the mentee's competencies and confidence in their chosen field.

**Regular Check-Ins and Support:** Mentors and mentees will engage in regular check-in meetings to review progress, address concerns, and celebrate achievements. POLY will provide ongoing support and resources to mentorship pairs, including access to professional development workshops, networking events, and informational resources relevant to polymer science.

**Community Building and Networking:** Foster a sense of community and camaraderie among POLY members, creating opportunities for mentorship pairs to connect with other professionals and students within the division. Through networking events, discussion forums, and collaborative projects, mentees will have the chance to expand their professional networks and gain exposure to diverse perspectives within the field of polymer chemistry.



## Programming Team

Pictured top to bottom: Graham Collier, Danniebelle Haase, Levi Moore, and Julia Kalow



## 269th Hybrid ACS National Meeting (Fall) August 18-21, 2024 \*Denver, CO

**ACS Theme: Elevating Chemistry**

**Lead Program Chair: Danniebelle Haase (DHaase@dow.com)**

- 20 years of Virginia Tech Macromolecules Innovation Institute
- 25th Anniversary of ACS Biomacromolecules Journal
- ACS Macro Letters/Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules Young Investigator Award
- Advances in Fluorine Containing Polymers and Composites
- Advancing Protection Through Materials Design
- Chemistry and Physics of Polymer Interlayers for Solar Cells
- Climbing Macromolecular Ladders: Elevating the Design, Synthesis, Properties, and Applications of Ladder Polymers
- CME-NASA Symposium: Elevating Polymer Chemistry to New Heights-polymers for Future Space Missions
- Elevating Polymer Science in the State of Colorado
- Elevating the Power of Data for Materials and Chemical Scientists
- Elevating Waste Carbon Utilization for a Circular Economy
- General Topics: New Synthesis and Characterization of Polymers
- Global Collaborations on Natural Polymers as Substitution of Synthetic Materials
- Henkel Award for Outstanding Graduate Research in Polymer Science & Engineering in Honor of Shu Wang
- Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science
- Industrial Polymer Scientist Award in honor of Carl Willis
- Mark Scholars Award in Honor of Brent Sumerlin
- Mark Scholars Senior Award in Honor of Heather Maynard
- Mark Scholars Young Award in Honor of Zachariah Page
- Performance Advantaged Bioproducts
- Phosphorus-Containing Polymers
- Polymer Sustainability: Renewable feedstocks and Eco-Friendly Synthetic Strategies
- Pushing the Limits of Macromolecular Architecture
- Stimuli-Responsive Polymers as Functional Biomaterials

View grid and other updates:  
<https://polyacs.org/poly-at-national-accs-meetings/>

**Fall 2024 POLY  
Symposia Location:**  
Shearton Denver  
Downtown Hotel

Past POLY  
Graphical Abstracts  
<https://polyacs.org/poly-at-previous-national-accs-meetings/>

POLY Symposia  
Submission  
(Spring & Fall)  
<https://polyacs.org/symposium-proposal-online-form/>

## 270th Hybrid ACS National Meeting (Spring) March 23-27, 2025 \*San Diego, CA

**ACS Theme: Transformative Chemistry**

**Lead Program Chair: Julia Kalow (jkalow@northwestern.edu)**

- 5th Symposium on Poly(2-oxazoline)s and Related Polymers
- Carl S. Marvel Creative Polymer Chemistry
- Chemical Recycling and Upcycling of Polymers (joint with PMSE & CATL)
- Excellence in Polymer Graduate Research
- General Topics
- Industrial Innovations in Polymer Science
- Joe DeSimone 60th Birthday Celebration
- Modern Approaches to Post-Polymerization Modification
- Modern Organic Methods in Polymer Chemistry
- Molecule to Material Insights in Polymer Networks
- Polymers for Energy and Sustainability (joint with PMSE)
- Polymers with Inorganic Fillers
- Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science
- Virtual Grad. Students Symposium in Asia-Pacific Region on Polymer Chemistry

## **POLY COUNCILORS' REPORT**



**POLY Councilors**  
**Pictured left**  
**to right:**  
**Brian Long**  
**Mary Ann Meador**  
**Greg Tew**  
**and**  
**Kathryn Uhrich**

**ACS Fall 2025 Symposia**  
**Proposal Deadline:**  
**November 1, 2024**

### **Future ACS Meetings**

Elevating Chemistry  
August 18 - 21, 2024  
Denver, CO

Transformative  
Chemistry  
March 23 - 27, 2025  
San Diego, CA

ACS Fall 2025  
August 17 - 21  
Washington, DC

ACS Spring 2026  
March 22-26  
Atlanta, GA

<http://bit.ly/futureacsm meetings>

The ACS Spring 2024 meeting was held from March 17 – 21. As of March 19, there were 14,368 registrations (13,122 in-person and 1,246 online). The ACS Fall 2024 meeting will be held in Denver, CO from August 18 – 22, 2024. At the ACS Council meeting held on March 20, 2024, the following actions were taken:

By electronic ballot, the Council selected Rigoberto Hernandez and Laura Sremaniak as candidates for 2025 President-Elect. These two candidates will join Mukund Chorghade, a petition candidate, and any additional candidates selected via petitions to stand for election in the fall 2024 national election.

On the recommendation of DAC, Council approved an amendment to the distribution formula for Division funding. This will allow a greater amount of funding to be distributed to Divisions. Also on the recommendation of the DAC, Council approved changing the name of the Division of Biological Chemistry (BIOL) to the Division of Biochemistry and Chemical Biology (BIOL). This name change takes effect January 1, 2025.

On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council approved the creation of International Chemical Sciences Chapters in Egypt and Guangdong, China, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council approved changing the name of the Auburn Section to the East Alabama/West Georgia Section. This name change takes effect on January 1, 2025.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC) and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition on Dues and Benefits to change the name of the Schedule of Membership to the Schedule of Dues and Benefits. The petition also defines the role of Community Associates. Also, on the recommendation of MAC and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the 2025 Schedule of Dues and Benefits.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) to better reflect their charge of making recommendations on the Society's budget for approval by the Board of Directors.

ConC announced that the opening of the online preference form to all ACS members began on March 1 and will run through July 1, Members interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2025 should go to [CMTE.acs.org](http://CMTE.acs.org) to complete their preferences.

The Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) is working on several initiatives around Future of Meetings, including new formats for symposia and poster sessions, new networking opportunities, more talks on the Expo floor and other ways of increasing traffic to the Expo. At the spring meeting, the first opening reception was held on Sunday night. In Denver, the opening reception is planned to be grander with increased food and beverages, music, etc.

# EXCELLENCE IN POLYMER GRADUATE RESEARCH

The 19th Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research symposium was held at the Spring ACS National Conference in New Orleans, LA, March 18-19, 2024.

The purpose of this symposium is to recognize outstanding graduate students in polymer science and engineering, foster networking and exposure, and help develop the careers of future leaders in our field. This year's symposium highlighted 28 oral presentations and 17 poster presentations, with a keynote lecture from ACS President Mary K. Carroll.

The symposium was publicized via POLY media channels and the POLY listserve. The organizers requested each department nominate one outstanding graduate student to speak on his or her research in this special symposium. Nominations and submissions are processed in August annually. After the August 2024 update, a description of the application can be found online at <https://polyacs.org/excellence-in-graduate-polymer-research-symposium/>.

## Special Recognition of Outstanding Nominations



**Jignesh S. Mahajan**  
University of Delaware



**Roshan Patel**  
Princeton University

### Organizers

Jeff Self (ASU), Christine Coltrain (Eastman Kodak Company – retired), Christopher Ellison (University of Minnesota), Tim Long (ASU), Ross Behling (3M), and Katherine Heifferon (Eastman Kodak Company)

### Sponsors/Support

ACS Presidential Event, POLY, POLY Industrial Advisory Board, PRES, PROF, SOCED, TOSOH, WILEY, and YCC



Congratulations to the 2024 Excellence Symposium Cohort!

**Amnahir Peña-Alcántara**  
*Stanford Univ.*

**Andrew King**  
*UNC, Chapel Hill*

**Autumn Mineo**  
*UMass Amherst*

**Avinava Roy**  
*Univ. of Michigan*

**Boran Chen**  
*Northwestern Univ.*

**Bruce Kirtkpatrick**  
*Univ. of Colorado*

**Caleb Cox**  
*Univ. of Wisconsin*

**Calum Bochenek**  
*Univ. of Akron*

**Chen Chen**  
*UIUC*

**David Kitto**  
*Univ. of Michigan*

**Dustin Britton**  
*New York Univ.*

**Eleanor Plaster**  
*Univ. of Michigan*

**Elisabeth Lloyd**  
*Penn State*

**Elise Chen**  
*Univ. of Chicago*

**Erin Tsai**  
*Louisiana State Univ.*

**Ethan Quinn**  
*Colorado State Univ.*

**Gustavo Munoz**  
*Mississippi State Univ.*

**Henry Cater**  
*Univ. of Texas*

**Hoda Behbahani**  
*Arizona State Univ.*

**HoJun Shin**  
*Yonsei Univ.*

**Hwangseok Kim**  
*ETH Zürich*

**James Young**  
*Univ. of Florida*

**Jen-Chieh (Jeff) Yu**  
*Arizona State Univ.*

**Jiachen Lin**  
*Northeastern*

**Jignesh Mahajan**  
*Univ. of Delaware*

**Jingyi Zhou**  
*North Carolina State*

**Jose Sintas**  
*Arizona State Univ.*

**Julia Smith**  
*Univ. of Wisconsin*

**Junyi Zhao**  
*Washington Univ.*

**Lacey Wayment**  
*Univ. of Colorado*

**Lejla Camdzic**  
*Princeton Univ.*

**Owen Lee**  
*Univ. of Colorado*

**Peter Meyer**  
*Iowa State Univ.*

**Praneetha Pulyala**  
*Lehigh Univ.*

**Punarbassu Roy**  
*Univ. of Minnesota*

**Qi Li**  
*Univ. of Alabama*

**Rebecca Johnson**  
*UT Dallas*

**Roshan Patel**  
*Princeton Univ.*

**Samantha McDonald**  
*Duke Univ.*

**Samuel Kempel**  
*Texas A&M Univ.*

**Xiaowei Zhang**  
*Yale Univ.*

**Yishayah Bension**  
*Southern Carolina*

**Yunfei Wang**  
*Univ. Southern Miss.*

**Yuxiang Zhu**  
*Arizona State Univ.*

**Ziwen Zhang**  
*Univ. of Buffalo*

## ● UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

The 18th annual "Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science" Symposium was held during the Spring 2024 Hybrid ACS National Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

The symposium is intended to provide recognition to outstanding undergraduate students in polymer science and engineering, to foster networking and exposure, to introduce opportunities in graduate research and to help develop the careers of future leaders in both academia and industry. There were 22 oral presentations and 42 poster presentations from 36 institutions across the globe. The symposium featured a panel discussion on careers in polymer science with representatives from national laboratories, academia, and industrial laboratories.

The panel was sponsored by POLY Industrial Advisory Board. The panelists were: Dr. Jeffrey Ting, Nanite, Inc.; Dr. Kelli Ogawa, Dow Chemical Company; Dr. Fariha Haque, Tosoh Bioscience; Dr. Mine Ucak-Astarlioglu, U.S. Army Engineer Research and Development Center; and Dr. Olivia McNair, University of Southern Mississippi School of Polymer Science and Engineering

### Organizers

Sarah Morgan, Heather Broadhead, and Sergei Nazarenko  
The University of Southern Mississippi

## Best Papers Recognition

First Place

**Jojo Holm, Northwestern University**

Second Place

**Kari Chamberlain, Mississippi State University**

Third Place

**Charles McClain, Ouachita Baptist University**

## Best Posters Recognition

First Place

**Nicholas Cipolla, Trinity University**

Second Place

**Christopher Faulkner, University of Southern Mississippi**

Third Place

**Rhonwyn Fleming, Pacific Lutheran University**

### Sponsors/Support

POLY Industrial Advisory Board,  
TOSOH and POLY

## ● POLY AWARDS RECOGNITION: 2024 FALL ACS MEETING

### ACS Macro Letters/Biomacromolecules/ Macromolecules Young Investigator Award

**Brett P. Fors** - Cornell University  
**Sarah Perry** - University of Massachusetts Amherst

### Henkel Award for Outstanding Graduate Research in Polymer Science and Engineering

**Shu Wang** - MIT

### Mark Young Scholar Award

**Zachariah Page** - University of Texas at Austin

### Mark Scholar Award

**Brent Sumerlin** - University of Florida

### Mark Senior Scholar Award

**Heather Maynard** - University of California, Los Angeles

### POLY Graduate Student Travel Award

**Isabel Coutinho** - Virginia Tech  
**Daniel Inman** - University of Alabama at Birmingham

### Student Symposia and Award Opportunities

<https://polyacs.org/for-students-and-recent-phd/>

Become a POLY Member to be eligible for these opportunities

## INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

On behalf of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry, we would like to invite you to consider advertising in the POLY Newsletter. Our non-profit organization distributes the POLY Newsletter to approximately 2,500 of its polymer scientist members. The POLY NEWSLETTER is distributed in June and October each year and describes the Division activities and announces polymer-related scientific activities worldwide. The POLY Newsletter provides an excellent opportunity for advertising.

For more information, email:  
**KATHYL@VT.EDU**

## REGIONAL MEETINGS

<https://www.acs.org/meetings/regional.html>

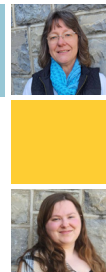
Midwest Regional Mtg.  
Oct. 13 - Omaha, NE

Southwest Regional Mtg.  
Oct. 20-Waco, TX

Southeast. Regional Mtg.  
Oct. 23 - Atlanta, GA

Central Regional Mtg.  
Nov. 6-Pittsburg, PA

## Contact POLY for Advertising Opportunities, Membership Benefits, & More



- Newsletter & E-news Advertising
- Membership Benefits
- POLY Workshops
- POLY Webinars
- ACS National Meetings
- POLY Sponsored Events

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ICTAS II, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
540-320-1679, KATHYL@VT.EDU

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ExComm & Past Chairs Dinner, Spring 2024