

POLY Awards
Outstanding Graduate Research- Past Awardees
1991-2000

2000 Outstanding Graduate Research

Linda Chen
Univ. Rochester (Sam Jenekhe)

The Unilever Award for Outstanding Graduate Research in Polymer Science and Engineering was given to **Linda Chen** for research on rod-coil block copolymers that phase separate at unusual length scales. She earned her PhD at the University of Rochester with Prof. Sam Jenekhe. The award symposium at the Washington, DC national ACS meeting drew a large and lively audience.

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1999 Outstanding Graduate Research

Scott Gaynor
Carnegie Mellon (Kris Matyjaszewski)

The recipient of the 1999 Unilever Award for Outstanding Graduate Research is **Scott G. Gaynor**, who received his doctorate under the tutelage of Professor Krzysztof Matyjaszewski at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. His doctoral dissertation focused on the preparation of polymeric materials with novel architectures (branched, hyperbranched, graft) using the controlled/"living" radical polymerization technique, atom transfer radical polymerization (ATRP). He demonstrated that highly functionalized, highly branched, but un-crosslinked, polymers could be readily obtained by radical polymerization. His graduate research also involved the development of new ATRP catalyst systems and ATRP techniques which can readily prepare a wide range of materials, including telechelic polymers, amphiphilic copolymers, wholly acrylic thermoplastic elastomers, block copolymers of condensation and vinyl polymers. These new materials synthesized by ATRP are expected to find uses in numerous applications where well-defined composition, architecture and/or functionality is desired.

The Unilever Award, which will be presented at the New Orleans meeting of the American Chemical Society (Aug. 22-26) consists of a \$2,000 prize, a plaque and travel expenses. This award, administered by the Polymer Education Committee of the Polymer Chemistry and Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering Divisions, was established in 1991 and is sponsored by Unilever, a global manufacturer of consumer products, foods and specialty chemicals. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding graduate research in the design, synthesis and physical chemistry of polymers.

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1998 Outstanding Graduate Research

James Watkins
UMass Amherst (Tom McCarthy)

The recipient of the 1998 Unilever Award for Outstanding Graduate Research is **James J. Watkins**, who received his doctorate under the guidance of Professor Thomas J. McCarthy at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. His doctoral dissertation involved high pressure chemical synthesis, materials characterization, and chemical engineering polymer processing aspects of a new approach to make advanced polymer materials. The approach takes advantage of the observation that virtually all polymers are swollen to some extent in supercritical CO₂, in order to use this medium for reactions to modify the swollen polymer. For example, a polymer composite may be formed by in situ polymerization of monomers dissolved in the swollen polymer, providing the possibility for the synthesis of a wide range of multicomponent compositions.

Control of the morphology of the composite is provided through reaction temperatures, times, concentrations, etc. The Unilever Award, which will be presented at the Boston meeting of the American Chemical Society (Aug. 22-26, 1998), consists of a \$2,000 prize, a plaque and travel expenses. This award, administered by the Polymer Education Committee of the Polymer Chemistry and Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering Divisions, was established in 1991 and is sponsored by Unilever, a global manufacturer of consumer products, foods and specialty chemicals. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding graduate research in the design, synthesis and physical chemistry of polymers.

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Dong-Yu Kim
UMass Lowell (Sukant Tripathy)

The recipient of the 1997 Unilever Award for Outstanding Graduate Research is **Dong-Yu Kim**, who received his doctorate under the guidance of Professor Sukant Tripathy at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. His doctoral dissertation involved photoinduced dynamics in polymers below the glass transition temperature in the formation of surface relief gratings induced in polymers containing azobenzene side groups. These gratings have potential use in information storage by holography, and the studies have resulted in number of publications and a patent application. He was awarded B.S. and M.S. degrees from Seoul University, and worked for three years as a Research Scientist at the Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in Seoul before joining Professor Tripathy's research group.

His work at KAIST resulted in a patent on the use of liquid crystalline polymers in storage medial. The Unilever Award, was presented at the Las Vegas meeting of the American Chemical Society (Sep. 7-11) consisted of a \$2,000 prize, a plaque and travel expenses. This award, administered by the Polymer Education Committee of the Polymer Chemistry and Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering Divisions, was established in 1991 and is sponsored by Unilever, a global manufacturer of consumer products, foods and specialty chemicals. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding graduate research in the design, synthesis and physical chemistry of polymers.

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Kristi Anseth
UC Boulder (Chris Bowman)

The recipient of the 1996 Unilever Award for Outstanding Graduate Research is **Kristi S. Anseth**. Dr. Anseth, now a Research Fellow at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, received her doctorate under the guidance of Professor Christopher N. Bowman at the University of Colorado at Boulder, working on reaction mechanisms and polymer structure evolution in the photopolymerizations of multifunctional monomers. Her doctoral dissertation, which involved experimental and theoretical investigations of crosslinking reactions and the polymer structure formed, has already resulted in a number of publications. She was awarded a B. S. (Chem. Eng.) with Highest Distinction by Purdue University in 1992.

Dr. Anseth has received a number of awards and honors during her academic career, including a National Science Foundation Fellowship and an NIH National Research Service Award Individual Postdoctoral Fellowship. The Unilever Award, which will be presented at the Orlando meeting of the American Chemical Society (Aug. 25-29), consists of a \$2,000 prize, a plaque and travel expenses. This award, administered by the Polymer Education Committee of the Polymer Chemistry and Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering Divisions, was established in 1991 and is sponsored by Unilever, a global manufacturer of consumer products, foods and specialty chemicals. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding graduate research in the design, synthesis and physical chemistry of polymers.

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Rangaramanujam M. Kannan
CalTech (Julia Kornfield)

The recipient of the 1995 Unilever Award for Outstanding Graduate Research is **Rangaramanujan M. Kannan**. Dr. Kannan, currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Minnesota-Minneapolis. Dr. Kannan obtained his doctorate under the guidance of Prof. Julia A Kornfield at the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena where he worked on the development of rheo-optical methods to study dynamics in complex polymer melts. Dr. Kannan did his undergraduate work at the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani, India where he was a National Merit Scholar. He holds Master's degrees from Pennsylvania State University and California Institute of Technology.

While at the California Institute of Technology, he was DuPont Graduate Fellow and a Charles Lee Powell Foundation Graduate Fellow. The award, which was presented at the Chicago meeting of the American Chemical Society (Aug. 1995) consists of a \$2,000 prize, a plaque and travel expenses. This award, administered by the Polymer Education Committee of the Polymer Chemistry and Polymeric Materials Science and Engineering Divisions, was established in 1991 and is sponsored by Unilever, a global manufacturer of consumer products, foods and specialty chemicals. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding graduate research in the design, synthesis and physical chemistry of polymers.

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Timothy J. Deming
UMass Amherst (Bruce Novak)

The recipient of the 1994 Unilever Award for Outstanding Graduate Research is **Timothy J. Deming**, currently a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Dr. Deming obtained his doctorate under the guidance of Prof. Bruce M. Novak at the University of California, Berkeley where he worked on the development of well-defined transition metal complexes for the living polymerization of isocyanides, butadiene and other unsaturated monomers.

Dr. Deming did his undergraduate work at the University of California, Irvine, where he received the Donald L. Bunker Memorial Award, was a University of California President's Undergraduate Fellow and graduated magna cum laude. He was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Lambda Upsilon. The award, which will be presented at the Washington meeting of the American Chemical Society (Aug. 21-26) consists of a \$2,000 prize, a plaque and travel expenses. This award, administered POLYED, was established in 1991 and is sponsored by Unilever, a global manufacturer of consumer products, foods and specialty chemicals. The award recognizes and encourages outstanding graduate research in the design, synthesis and physical chemistry of polymers.

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Chris Bowman
Purdue (Nicholas Peppas)

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Rick Register
UW Madison (Stuart Cooper)

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1991 Graduate Research

Christopher B. Gorman
CalTech (Robert Grubbs)