

# 2019 POLY Elections

Elections Open  
Oct. 16 - Nov. 16

## Vice Chair Candidates



Semra Colak Atan  
3M



Jianjun Cheng  
Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-  
Champaign

## Secretary Candidates



Erik Berda  
Univ of New Hampshire



Scott Iacono  
U.S. Air Force Academy

## Councilor Candidates



Greg Tew  
Univ. of Massachusetts-  
Amherst



Derek Patton  
Univ. of Southern  
Mississippi

## Councilor Candidates



Kathryn Beers  
NIST



Joseph Mabry  
AFRL

## Alternate Councilor Candidates



Phil Costanzo  
California Polytechnic  
State Univ.



Wei Gao  
Dow Inc.

## Alternate Councilor Candidates



Emily Pentzer  
Texas A&M Univ.



Yoan Simon  
Univ. of Southern  
Mississippi

### VOTING ONLINE IS EASY AS 1-2-3!

1. Watch for e-mail instructions from [elections@vote-now.com](mailto:elections@vote-now.com)
2. Go online to complete the election ballot.
3. If you do not receive an e-mail by October 20th contact [kathyl@vt.edu](mailto:kathyl@vt.edu)



## Candidates for Vice Chair



**Semra Colak Atan**  
3M

**Statement:** I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Vice Chair of the Division of Polymer Chemistry. Since my active involvement with POLY as an Alternate Councilor and Awards Co-chair, I have had the chance to gain invaluable insight into organizational activities of the division and

learn from the experiences of fellow officers that have been integral to POLY's continued growth throughout the years. As a member, I have benefited from POLY's excellent programming at national and regional meetings, workshops as well as activities such as webinars, provided for members who do not have the opportunity to attend the meetings on a regular basis. As Vice-Chair my mission will focus on building upon POLY's core activities by enriching programming to bring further value to the broader POLY membership and implementing innovative strategies to expand POLY's reach to its members who are not able to participate in national or regional meetings. With the fast pace of change in materials research there is a constant need for scientists to communicate and collaborate across different disciplines, academia, and industry. With the strategies outlined above, my aim will be to strengthen those interactions among the scientists and fulfill POLY's obligation to provide benefits and return tangible value to all its members. I am excited about the possibility of building upon POLY's strengths and using my energy and enthusiasm to serve POLY and its membership.

**Biography:** Semra Colak Atan is currently a Research Specialist at 3M Company, Corporate Research Materials Laboratory. Her research is focused on development of biofunctional materials for products used in healthcare, as well as biopharmaceutical separations and purification area. Prior to joining 3M in 2011, Semra obtained her B.S. (2004) and M.S. (2006) in Chemistry from Bogazici University, Istanbul, Turkey and her Ph.D. (2011) in Polymer Science and Engineering from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Thus far she has co-authored over 20 technical publications, which include 6 issued, 9 published, 7 pending patent applications and 9 articles in peer-reviewed journals. Semra has been active with the ACS POLY as an alternate councilor since 2012. In addition, she is currently serving as the Awards Co-chair, and has co-organized the 1st ACS/Biomacromolecules Symposium on "Polymers at the Interface with Biology" at the 2012 ACS National Meeting in Philadelphia.



**Jianjun Cheng**  
Univ. of Illinois at  
Urbana - Champaign

**Statement:** It is a great honor to be nominated for Vice Chair for the Division of Polymer Chemistry. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve ACS-POLY. I have previously served as the POLY Poster Award Committee Co-Chair and as the organizer of ACS POLY Symposium

multiple times in the past 10 years, and have demonstrated enthusiasm for services in the POLY community. As Vice-Chair, I aim to continue to present POLY, improve the memberships and diversity, and expand the collaborations with PMSE and other ACS programs. I am also interested in putting efforts on fund raising to increase the number of POLY Division Award for outstanding researchers in polymer chemistry. I will seek the opportunity in collaborating with leading journals of polymer chemistry in setting up junior faculty award and themed issues on selected polymer chemistry topics to expand the visibility of ACS-POLY. I am also interested in collaborating with the polymer divisions of the polymer chemistry societies of other countries to enhance the presence of ACS-POLY in the global polymer chemistry community. I am excited for the possibly opportunity to serve POLY.

**Biography:** Jianjun Cheng is currently a Hans Thurnauer Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). He obtained his B.S. degree in Chemistry at Nankai University in 1993 and his Ph.D. degree in Materials Science at the University of California, Santa Barbara in 2001. After working as Senior Scientist at Insert Therapeutics, Inc. from 2001 to 2004, and as a postdoctoral research scientist at MIT from 2004 to 2005, he joined the faculty of the UIUC as a tenure-track Assistant Professor in 2005. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 2011 and Full Professor in 2015. He is a co-inventor of 38 issued patents and co-authored over 190 publications. He received National Science Foundation CAREER Award in 2008, NIH Director's New Innovator Award in 2010, and UIUC Distinguished Promotion Award in 2015. In 2015, he was selected as one of the four inaugural Faculty Entrepreneurial Fellows in the College of Engineering, UIUC. He is an Associate Editor of Biomaterials Science, Royal Society of Chemistry. He is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), a Fellow of American Chemical Society Division of Polymer Chemistry (ACS-POLY), and a Fellow of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).



## Candidates for Secretary



**Erik Berda**  
Univ. of  
New Hampshire

**Statement:** It has been my distinct pleasure to serve as POLY Secretary for the last three years and I am humbled by the nomination to appear on the ballot again. As I have said in the past, POLY is truly the premier professional organizations for polymer

scientists worldwide. The level of community engagement and support from and for its members is outstanding and quite honestly, I don't believe I would have enjoyed the level of career success I have without my involvement with POLY. Being that we are a volunteer organization makes this all the more impressive. I am happy to give back and if elected again I will continue to work with other POLY leadership to serve our members in the best ways possible, particularly through the numerous professional development initiatives that have begun over the past few years. Regardless of the outcome of this election I look forward to continuing in an active role in the division.

**Biography:** Erik Berda is the Gloria G. and Robert E. Lyle Professor of Chemistry and Materials Science at the University of New Hampshire. He received a BS in Chemistry from Penn State in 2003 and a PhD in Chemistry the University of Florida in 2008 in Ken Wagener's group. After a postdoc with Bert Meijer in Eindhoven, the Netherlands from 2008-2010, he began his independent career at UNH. Erik's research group is interested in the synthesis and application of biomimetic polymeric nanomaterials, i.e. synthetic polymers that mimic the structure and function of proteins. He has been an active POLY member for 13 years, an elected member of the Executive Committee for 3 years, organized several ACS/POLY Symposia, and is serving as co-organizer on the POLY Workshop, "Next Generation Smart Materials" scheduled December 2019. His interests in serving the Division centers on professional development and educational initiatives



**Scott Iacono**  
U.S. Air  
Force Academy

**Statement:** I'm honored to be nominated as the candidate for POLY Secretary to serve on behalf of the POLY membership. As a 15-year ACS member, 10 of those years as a POLY member, I've served in a multitude of capacities as a Programming

Chair, Workshop Chair, Symposium Organizer, and a member in various sub-committees. In these roles, I've worked intimately with various facets of finances in such programming activities within and outside the Division. We continue to face uncertain financial times ahead which ultimately affect our Division as a whole, but we must remain steadfast in maintaining the highest quality of programming while improving the benefits of POLY membership. I seek your support to join the dedicated team of POLY Officers as I feel my service experience, attention to detail, and proactive resourcefulness will result in the efficient programming activities to benefit you, the membership.

**Biography:** Scott Iacono completed his PhD studies in organic and polymer chemistry at Clemson University. Since 2002, he was a research scientist at the Air Force Research Laboratory, Rocket Propulsion Division, at Edwards Air Force Base synthesizing inorganic-organic hybrid fluoropolymers for solid rocket motor propulsion components. In 2010, he joined the Department of Chemistry at the United States Air Force Academy and has since been promoted to Full Professor and concurrently serves as the Chemistry Research Center Director surrounded by some of the most talented and emerging scientist & engineers focusing on advanced materials. His current research efforts focus on organo-fluorine methodologies for monomer development for fluorosilicone polymers, metallized fluoropolymer composites, and fulvene-based conjugated polymers for light harvesting applications. He has authored collectively over 160 journal and conference papers, holds 6 patents, and 2 published books in the area of fluoropolymers.

Scott's service activities in the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry included organizing 20 internationally recognized symposia and workshops as well as served as a Programming Chair for the Division. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Polymer International and the Journal of Fluorine Chemistry, serves on adjunct faculty at Clemson University and the University of Colorado (Colorado Springs), and recently elected as a Fellow of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry in 2018.



## Candidates for Councilor



**Greg Tew**  
**Univ. of Massachusetts-**  
**- Amherst**

**Statement:** It remains a pleasure and honor to serve the Division. Over the past three years, it has been my pleasure to serve as Councilor and I hope to continue serving the Division in this role. Councilors hold an important role since they are not only the

voice between the Division and the ACS voting body but, also, because they serve on important ACS committees. Following my election to Division Councilor, I joined the Joint Board-Council Committee on Publications (JBCCP). I chose this committee given the importance of publications to our field and the Society as well as the fast-pace changes occurring in this area related to open-source publishing. This position also provides the opportunity to continue serving the Division as a member of the Executive Committee allowing me to work with a host of great people including the Division Chair rotation and POLY office.

**Biography:** Greg is Full Professor of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. His research interests include bio-inspired structures, polymers for intracellular delivery, materials-immunology interface, and the synthesis of well-defined macromolecular networks. Greg received his B.S. in Chemistry from North Carolina State University in 1995 and his Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 2000. Before starting his first faculty appointment at UMass, he spent one year at the University of Pennsylvania studying biomimetic principles. He has received a number of prestigious awards including the NSF CAREER award, Office of Naval Research and Army Research Office Young Investigator Awards, the 3M Nontenured Faculty Grant, and the DuPont Young Faculty Award. In May of 2004, he was invited to the White House to receive the highest honor given by the Federal government to young investigators, the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE). He has been recognized as the first Herman Mark Young Scholar. He served as a member of the Defense Science Study Group (2010-2011). He is currently PI of an NSF NRT training grant. In addition to his research interests, Greg is actively involved in novel mentoring programs for young scientists and engineers. This includes former chairman of the NIH chemistry-biology interfaces training grant recruiting committee, co-founder of a peer mentoring program in PSE, and a founding mentor of the Future Faculty Workshop: Diverse Leaders of Tomorrow. Within the Polymer Chemistry Division, Greg has served as Alternate Councilor, Program Chair, Chair-elect, Vice-chair, Chair and one term as Councilor.



**Derek Patton**  
**Univ. of Southern**  
**Mississippi**

**Statement:** I am honored to be nominated and I am excited to accept the nomination to run for Councilor of the Division of Polymer Chemistry. As a POLY member since entering graduate school in 2000, I continue to be impressed

with the outstanding accomplishments of the division – led by a dedicated group of volunteers that devote time to ensure the division and its benefits remain member focused. I have been the recipient of these benefits (programming, networking, workshops) over the last 18 years and I am honored to have an opportunity to give back to the division in the form of service. I had the privilege of serving as POLY Treasurer from 2014 – 2017 – an opportunity that allowed me to work on behalf of division members with an inspiring group of colleagues on the POLY Executive Committee. During my term as Treasurer, we worked together to ensure that POLY remained fiscally sound within a financial environment that continued to tighten. Together, we worked to ensure that POLY remained the professional home for polymer scientists from academia, industry, and government. The Councilor position enables engagement within the American Chemical Society at higher level providing opportunities to bridge the gap between national policy and the interest and concerns of the POLY division constituency. I thoroughly enjoy service to the division, and I would be honored to serve the division as Councilor if elected.

**Biography:** Derek Patton is an Associate Professor and Interim Director of the School of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. He earned his B.S. (Chemistry, 2000) from Jacksonville State University and his Ph.D. (Chemistry, 2006) at the University of Houston. In 2006, he moved to NIST (Gaithersburg, MD) as a NRC Postdoctoral Fellow in the Polymers Division. He joined the faculty in the School of Polymer Science and Engineering at USM in 2008. In 2014, Derek was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. Derek has been the recipient of the NSF CAREER Award (2011), the USM Junior Faculty Research Award (2011), and the College Faculty Research Award (2015). Derek has served POLY as Treasurer and continues to serve as Faculty Advisor to the USM POLY/PMSE Student Chapter. In the past, Derek has been involved in the POLY publicity/outreach committee and as a POLY symposium organizer.



## Candidates for Councilor



**Joseph Mabry**  
AFRL

**Statement:** I am honored to be nominated for re-election as POLY Councilor. I've enjoyed working with the POLY Board as an officer since 2009. I can truly say that each current and past Board member is dedicated to serving POLY. This includes the person I am running against. Kate Beers has faithfully served our

Division in many different offices over the years, including acting as Division Chair. Kate's leadership has been invaluable to our Division and I have the utmost respect for her. It is difficult to run against her.

I have learned much about the operation of the Society over the past 3 years, while representing POLY on the ACS Council. If re-elected, I will continue my work to make sure POLY goals and interests are recognized by the ACS, while I will remain committed to ensuring Division responsiveness to the changing needs of our members. I believe involvement with outside organizations will also attract the enrollment of more diverse polymer community members from industry, government, and academia, creating additional opportunities for synergistic programming. In summary, I believe I can continue to make a difference as a POLY Councilor and I would be honored to have your vote.

**Biography:** Mabry has been a POLY member since 1997, served as POLY Chair in 2012, and as Councilor since 2017. He has served on the ACS Committee on Patents and Related Matters and the ACS Division Activities Committee. Joe has organized several successful POLY workshops and symposia, as well as serving the ACS in various positions at the Division, Local Section, Regional, and National Committee levels. Joe was recognized as an ACS Fellow in 2015.

Chief Scientist of the Air Force Research Laboratory, Rocket Propulsion Division, Joe is responsible for the technical activities of six independent research branches conducting rocket propulsion R&D. Joe is an inventor on >23 issued U.S. and international patents and >45 applications, with nearly ten licensed patents. Coauthor of >100 refereed publications and >90 preprints, Joe's work has been highlighted as the "Best Science Paper Award" by the Institute of Civil Engineers, a "Top Stories of the Year" by C&E News, one of the "Top five new discoveries that will change the world" by the Chosum Daily, and one of the "Top five breakthroughs of the year in Nanotechnology" by Technology Review.



**Kate Beers**  
NIST

**Statement:** It is a great compliment to be nominated for the position of POLY Councilor. The councilor position can have extensive impact on ACS from the external messages and policies advocated by ACS, to the day-to-day, meeting-to-meeting experiences of ACS members.

In my opinion, the strongest councilors have prior experience in volunteer service to the Division, as well as some experience connecting with the Society as a whole. I have gained that experience as POLY Alternate Councilor, Secretary, and Chair, as well as the Thematic Chair of the 2017 Spring ACS Meeting. This Division has a great culture of service, leadership, and innovation. Should you elect me, I will be pleased to represent POLY, and carry forward our values and priorities as it impacts the national and local meetings, membership, messaging and public outreach, etc – as appropriate based on my committee assignments.

In fact, the POLY Division is incredibly fortunate because it has a deep bench of experience from which to choose good councilors. Strong representation, and continuing leadership in the society will depend on all of us to keep looking for ways to serve. No matter the outcome of the election, I will continue to look for ways to be a part of this great Division and community.

**Biography:** Kate is Leader of the Polymers and Complex Fluids Group in the Materials Science and Engineering Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). The Group she leads has projects spanning macromolecular characterization, polyelectrolyte solutions and gels, carbon nanotube separations and emulsions and suspensions. She has been recognized with the President's Early Career Award in Science and Engineering (PECASE), the Arthur S. Flemming Award, the CMU Alumni Achievement Award and as a Fellow of the American Chemical Society. She is a former Chair of the Polymer Chemistry Division, and a member of COLL, PMSE and the Washington Chemical Society.

Kate earned a BS in chemistry with high honors from The College of William and Mary and MS and PhD degrees in polymer science and chemistry, respectively, from Carnegie Mellon University.



## Candidates for Alternate Councilor



### **Phil Castanzo** California Polytechnic State Univ.

**Statement:** I am privileged to be nominated as a candidate for Alternate Councilor for the POLY Division. During my career, I have felt extremely supported by the POLY division and view this role as opportunity to give back. A primary function of the Alternate Councilor is to provide

support, new ideas and learn about the inner workings of the division. I have recently taken on one of the primary positions in the development of MACRO, which is an initiative with three main focal points. First, developing polymer education materials at various education levels. Second, professional development advice and guidance for our POLY members at all levels of their careers. Third, outreach information and opportunities to connect POLY members with each other and the general public community. This initiative serves as a mechanism to interact with a wide range of POLY members over a diverse set of objectives. I am excited about this opportunity and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. We are a strong organization that is willing to work together to grow and become better, and I aspire to add to the division in a positive way.

**Biography:** Philip Costanzo is a Professor at California Polytechnic State University (Cal Poly), a primarily undergraduate institution. During his twelve-year career, he has directly mentored over 85 undergraduate students, including female students, 1st generation college students, minority students, and students of various gender identity and sexuality. Over 90% of graduated students have been placed in various positions including industry, graduate, law, medical and dental school. He has received two University awards during his tenure at Cal Poly, including Outstanding Undergraduate Advisor (2010) and Distinguished Scholarship (2014-2015). Philip graduated from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001 with a BS in chemistry. While there, he worked in Prof. Krzysztof Matyjaszewski lab preparing materials via ATRP. He then received his Ph.D. in organic chemistry from Timothy Patten at University of California, Davis, where he focused upon polymer and nanoparticle synthesis. He was awarded a National Research Council Postdoctoral fellowship at the Army Research Laboratory (ARL). At ARL, he worked in the weapons and materials division developing materials for wide range of applications. He joined Cal Poly in 2007. His research currently focuses upon the development of structure-property relationships by exploiting simple and efficient methodology, such as Diels-Alder chemistry, to create dynamic and stimuli-responsive materials.



### **Wei Gao** Dow Inc.

**Statement:** Statement: Being elected to serve as Alternate Councilor in the Division of Polymer Chemistry would be a great honor. Polymers are critically important in providing essentials like food, medical care, water and energy, yet also contribute to environmental

issues like ocean plastics. The people of POLY will be the ones that introduce better solutions, addressing the needs of society in an environmentally responsible and sustainable way. I am proud to be a polymer scientist and a POLY member. POLY efforts to enhance STEM education, to provide career coaching, to promote scientific excellence, to accelerate industrial advancement, and to expand professional networking and collaborations are all worthy activities that help members succeed. More than that, they promote polymer science, attracting scientists to the field and insuring future generations of polymer scientists will find great careers. I derived great satisfaction from organizing POLY symposia at recent ACS National Meetings. Separation and Characterization of Macromolecules and Particles, Polymer Sciences for Everyday Things, Polymer Colloids, and Dispersivity of Block Copolymers were well attended and well received. I want to do more. I would appreciate your support and be thrilled to serve as alternate councilor, serving POLY and bringing value to all members.

**Biography:** Wei Gao is a Senior Research Scientist in Analytical Sciences, Corporate R&D, at Dow. She received in China her B.S. from Fudan University and Ph.D. from Peking University in 1997. She then worked as a postdoctoral fellow and an Associate Professor in the Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences. Employment at the NSF-I/UCRC center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing of Macromolecules at Polytechnic University (Now NYU Tandon School of Engineering) followed in 2000, and in 2005 she became a Research Assistant Professor. In 2006 Wei joined Rohm and Haas/Dow. She intensively works on polymer and particle characterization, synthesis-structure-property relationship of polymeric and colloidal systems, and sustainable polymers. She leads the Global Road Map of Macromolecule Characterization Analytical Function Capability at Dow. Wei has published over 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters, more than 20 patents and patent applications, and is the co-editor of an ACS symposium book. Besides organizing ACS symposia, she also served in the scientific program committee for international conferences (GPC2015 and FFF2018). Her awards include NOVA Innovation Award from Rohm and Haas (2008), and US EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards (2003 and 2013).



## Candidates for Alternate Councilor



**Emily Pentzer**  
Texas A&M Univ.

**Statement:** I am excited and honored to be nominated as a candidate for Alternate Councilor for the POLY division of ACS. I find the POLY division provides an excellent home for polymer enthusiasts from around the world and many different backgrounds. I've been a member of ACS and the POLY division

since I was a graduate student and have participated in many ways: organizing and speaking at national and regional symposia and attending POLY workshops, as well as various volunteer roles with the POLY/PMSE student chapters and POLY publicity. As Alternate Councilor, I will support the many initiatives the POLY division is pursuing and help develop new initiatives to meet the needs and desires of the membership. My goal is to find ways to engage and interact with POLY members from around the world to provide the most inclusive and dynamic environment. I believe the POLY division provides the best world-wide network to highlight polymers and their impact on the world around us including academia, industry, public policy, and education. I am excited about the opportunity to serve the POLY membership.

**Biography:** Emily Pentzer is an Associate Professor in the department of chemistry and the department of materials science and engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX. She received a BS in chemistry from Butler University (2005) and PhD in organic chemistry from Northwestern University (2010), where her thesis work focused on metathesis routes for preparing and polymerizing unsaturated medium-sized lactones and lactams under the direction of Sonbinh Nguyen. She then worked with Todd Emrick in the Polymer Science and Engineering Department at UMass Amherst where she focused on the synthesis and assembly of electronically active materials for organic photovoltaics as part of a DOE EFRC. In 2013, Dr. Pentzer joined the faculty at CWRU in Chemistry and moved to Texas A&M University in the summer of 2019, as part of both the chemistry and materials science and engineer departments. Her research uses organic synthesis to access new materials and assemblies as a route to understand structure-property-application relationships and access functions not possible with current state-of-the-art systems. Dr. Pentzer regularly participates and organizes events aimed at the professional development of graduate students and facilitating the transition of graduate students and post-docs to successful and vibrant careers in academia. She has received several awards including the NSF-CAREER award (2016), the PMSE Young Investigator Award (2017), and the CWRU Faculty Diversity Excellence Award (2019). She currently serves as an Associate Editor for the RSC journal Polymer Chemistry as well as the publicity chair for the Polymer Division (POLY) of the American Chemical Society.



**Yoan Simon**  
Univ. of Southern  
Mississippi

**Statement:** The Division of Polymer Chemistry has played an integral part in my professional career from my student days until now. That is why, I am humbled by the nomination to serve the polymer community and to help represent its voice within the ACS

organization as Alternate Councilor. I am determined to assist the POLY Executive Committee in offering the best experience to our members and relish the opportunity to contribute to this amazingly diverse and dynamic division.

For the past 15 years, I have participated in ACS POLY regional and national meetings from presenter, to poster judge, to panel participant, to symposium and workshop organizer. In every capacity, my participation has always been immensely rewarding. Consequently, I will continue to promote and strengthen the wonderful chances that our division offers in terms of networking, professional development, education, webinars and, of course, meetings and short courses. Building bridges with international organizations as well as strengthening the bond between industry, academia and governmental organization are key objectives of mine, which I believe to be essential for the health of the division. Finally, I am committed to bring to the forefront topics of diversity and mental health, which are critical to the well-being of all our members. I am both enthusiastic and prepared to serve POLY and its current members. I am also resolute to endeavor for the future and growth of our community and I count on your support to achieve these goals.

**Biography:** Yoan is the Southern Society for Coatings Technology Assistant Professor in the School of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Southern Mississippi. He pursued his undergraduate studies and received his Diplôme d'ingénieur (M.Sc.) in chemistry from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Montpellier in 2004. Yoan moved to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for his doctoral work with Professor E. Bryan Coughlin, Department of Polymer Science and Engineering to study hybrid organic-inorganic materials. After receiving his degree in 2008, he was awarded an ETH Postdoctoral Fellowship to research 2D-polymers in the Department of Materials with A. Dieter Schlüter in Zürich (Switzerland). In 2009, Yoan joined the then-newly founded Adolphe Merkle Institute at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland) as a Maître-Assistant in the Polymer Chemistry and Materials group headed by Christoph Weder. In 2016, Yoan started at Southern Miss, where he is currently. Yoan is the recipient of a Leonardo Da Vinci Fellowship, two Massachusetts Space Grant Consortium Grant and, in 2015, Yoan was the Hans and Marlies Zimmer International Scholar at the Univ. of Cincinnati.