

# 2020 POLY Election Statements and Bios

Elections Open: 10/16 - 11/16

The 2020 candidate information is summarized below. An e-mail will be sent to all voting members containing website and login instructions. If you do not have a current e-mail address on file with us, you will NOT be sent an election notice. Please make sure to send your updated e-mail address to Carlee Black (carleel@vt.edu).

The 2019 POLY Election was a success providing approximately 21% voting-membership participation. POLY anticipates a repeat performance in 2020.

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

1. Watch for an e-mail sent from elections@vote-now.com, containing your individual password on October 16th.
2. Once you receive your e-mail, go online to complete the election ballot.
3. If you do not receive an e-mail by October 20th or for additional questions, please contact the POLY Business Office at kathy1@vt.edu or call 540-231-3029.

## Officer Duties (3 Year Term)

**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.

**Treasurer Duties:** This officer handles all financial affairs for the Division including, but not limited to, overseeing Division dues/renewals, process income and expenditures, file annual income taxes, submits ACS financial reports and develops, maintains, and executes the POLY budget, which is approved by the Executive Committee. This person will solicit and collect support for POLY programs. Provides fiscal oversight and approval of national meeting and workshop activity. He/She will oversee investment accounts and provides guidance for growth. Serves as the direct supervisor for the POLY Business Office.

**Councilor Duties:** Councilors represent the Division at an ACS level. Once elected, ACS assigns the Councilor an ACS committee(s) on which to serve. Attend POLY Executive Committee and ACS Council meeting, held during ACS National Meetings, to provide input to represent the Division. A Councilor provides helpful feedback to Division Officers and the membership in regard to ACS-level activities. A Councilor is typically a seasoned POLY Member or past officer who can represent the interests of the Division members at the ACS level.

**Alternate Councilor Duties:** 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 a Councilor is 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, Councilors, or serve on committees as needed.

## Vice Chair Candidates



**Jianjun Cheng**  
Univ. of Illinois



**Allan Guymon**  
Univ. of Iowa

## Treasurer Candidates



**Christine Coltrain**  
Eastman Kodak Co.



**Erin Murphy**  
Exponent, Inc.

## Councilor Candidates



**Kevin Cavicchi**  
Univ. of Akron



**Kathryn Uhrich**  
Univ. of CA,  
Riverside

## Alternate Councilor Candidates



**Johan Foster**  
Univ. of British  
Columbia



**Wei Gao**  
Dow, Inc.



## Candidates for Vice-Chair



**Jianjun Cheng**  
University 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 science 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 Insect 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 200 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).



**Allan Guymon**  
University of Iowa

**Statement:**

It is truly a tremendous privilege and an honor to be nominated to serve as Vice-Chair in the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry. POLY has made a significant positive impact in my life and in the lives of many friends and colleagues. The challenges we are currently facing in our global and

scientific society are unprecedented. These challenges will certainly change how we must operate as a division but will also provide opportunities to be more inclusive and serve our members more effectively. As Vice-Chair I will focus on the two primary pillars that support POLY, programming and membership. We must continue to attract the best and brightest young scientists to the division while also showing industrial polymer scientists the direct benefits of POLY membership. For lasting success POLY needs to remain the premier location to present world class research from and to the international polymer community. I will work closely with the Program and Workshop Committees along with ACS and other divisions to create unique means for POLY members to participate in national and regional meetings in addition to our cutting-edge workshops. In collaboration with the Membership Committee, we will identify mini-symposia topics that are of particular interest to graduate students, post-doctoral researchers and new faculty. Using the latest in remote delivery, we will work with the Industrial Advisory Board to allow industrial and other members to participate in symposia and workshops without leaving the office. I believe that I have the requisite vision, enthusiasm, and leadership to facilitate innovation in these areas and success for the division and its members. I thank you in advance for your support and look forward to working with you all in serving the polymer community.

**Biography:**

Allan Guymon is currently Chair of the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering and Sharon K. Tinker Professor at the University of Iowa. He served as POLY Programming Chair for four years organizing all programming for four national meetings and has also been General Papers Chair and Polymer Preprints Assistant Editor. He has organized 9 symposia at ACS national meetings in POLY as well as symposia at MRS, Pacificchem, and AIChE. Allan received BS degrees in both Chemistry and Applied Mathematics at Weber State University, and an MS and PhD in Chemical Engineering at the University of Colorado in Boulder. After graduation, he joined the faculty in the Polymer Science Department at the University of Southern Mississippi before joining the University of Iowa. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed papers and has received numerous research awards including the NSF PECASE. He currently is the director of the Industry/University Cooperative Research Center on Photopolymerization and co-director of the NSF REU program in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology. His research focuses on using photopolymerization to form nanostructured materials from self-assembled systems and utilizing reaction behavior to produce unique properties in thin films and biomaterials.



## Candidates for Treasurer



**Christine Coltrain**  
Eastman Kodak  
Company

**Statement:**

For the past three years as Treasurer, it has been my privilege to serve the members of a Division that is so critical in providing leadership, opportunities for collaboration, communication, and synergy in an ever-expanding field of macromolecular chemistry

and materials. To achieve this, I have worked hand-in-hand with many other members of POLY and PMSE. I believe that my industrial research experience and past involvement in POLY will continue to guide me in the fulfillment of the responsibilities as Treasurer. During the past few years, my involvement in POLY and the Rochester Local Section has led me to meet and interact with so many exceptional people devoted to the field of polymers. I have been a co-organizer/co-chair for the Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research symposia at the Spring ACS meetings since 2011, where I have learned so much from many students who embody the future of our Division. During my time as Alternate Councilor, I represented the voice and needs of the POLY membership with the ACS, participating in several advisory committees. As Webmaster for the POLY Division (2009-2018), my goal was to facilitate the sharing of information between the ACS, the POLY Division, and its members. My tenure as Program Chair for POLY (2007-2008) was an extremely enriching experience. I intend to continue to build on these past experiences to better serve the POLY community.

**Biography:**

Christine Coltrain is a Senior Research Associate at the Eastman Kodak Company in Rochester, NY, and a 34 year member of the Kodak Research Labs, a POLY Fellow, and an ACS Fellow. Her primary research interests have been in understanding structure-property relations in multicomponent polymeric systems. This thrust has led down paths exploring polymer-polymer, polymer-dye, polymer-lubricant interactions, polymer-inorganic oxide nanocomposites, conductive inks, and porous structures in areas related to many imaging and printing product platforms. Her current interests reside in the area of functional and 3D printing and Antimicrobial/Antiviral surfaces. Christine received her B.Sc. in Chemistry (1980) from McGill University and Ph.D. in Analytical/Macromolecular Chemistry (1985) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is a member of ACS (POLY and PMSE), APS, and CIC (Chemical Institute of Canada), and has been active in the Polymer Chemistry Division as Treasurer, Program Chair, Alternate Councilor, Webmaster, MPPG representative, and symposia organizer. She has co-authored 35 publications, authored a book chapter, and is co-inventor on 87 US Patents.



**Erin Murphy**  
Exponent, Inc.

**Statement:**

I am excited to be nominated for Treasurer of the POLY Division of the ACS and for the opportunity to serve the POLY community. I joined POLY as a graduate student, not yet aware of the role that both polymers and the POLY community would play in my life. I became more

active in POLY programming and events through my involvement with the IAB (Industrial Advisory Board), a group that reminded me that industrial polymer chemistry is alive and well within the ACS. This led to an opportunity to co-organize a workshop sponsored by POLY on Advanced Polymer Materials - Houston to continue to highlight innovations in industrial polymer chemistry. As Treasurer of POLY, I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Division by ensuring that resources are allocated appropriately according to POLY and ACS core values, including growing our organization, providing resources to our members, and communicating activities of the community.

**Biography:**

Erin Murphy is currently a Managing Scientist at Exponent, Inc, where she specializes in the failure analysis of plastic and elastomeric/rubber components as well as trace component and unknown material analysis. She works in the fields of consumer products, medical devices, construction materials, aerospace, and consumer electronics, performing failure analysis of parts, pipes, seals, coatings, adhesives, and gels used in these areas. Prior to joining Exponent, Erin spent nearly seven years at Kraton Corporation in both research and technical management roles, focusing on the use of styrenic block copolymers and their derivatives and compounds for use in oil and gas applications. Prior to Kraton (2011-2017), Erin held a postdoctoral position at Virginia Tech (2009-2011), earned her Ph.D. from UCLA (Chemistry, 2006-2009), and earned her BS from Cal Poly SLO (Chemistry, Biochemistry, 1999-2005).



## Candidates for Councilor



**Kevin Cavicchi**  
University of Akron

**Statement:**

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Councilor for the Division of Polymer Chemistry. I believe that the core strength of the division is the dedication of its members earned from the excellent programming for, outreach to, and promotion of its members. This is complemented

by the division's willingness to continually innovate and adjust its practices to stay current in meeting its members' needs. As a councilor I would advocate for the goals of the POLY division to the ACS and report on ACS level activity back to the Executive committee and membership of the POLY division. Having served on the POLY membership committee and as Member-at-Large for POLY (2016-2019) I believe I have the necessary experience to serve as a Councilor for the division.

**Biography:**

Kevin Cavicchi is a Professor in the School of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering at the University of Akron. He received a B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering (Cornell University, 1998) and a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering (University of Minnesota, 2003). He joined the Department of Polymer Engineering at the University of Akron in January 2006. His research group is broadly interested in nanostructured soft materials. This includes the synthesis and characterization of ionomers, shape memory polymer and actuators, small molecule organogelators, and bio-based monomers. He was elected a Fellow of the ACS in 2019, a POLY Fellow in 2020, and received a POLY Distinguished Service Award in 2019. In addition to his service with POLY he has served on the boards of the Division of Polymer Materials Science and Engineering (PMSE), the Akron Chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), the Intersociety Polymer Education Council (IPEC), and the Cleveland Ultimate Disc Association (CDA).



**Kathryn Uhrich**  
University of  
California, Riverside

**Statement:**

It's been an honor to represent POLY as a councilor these past few years. My two goals as councilor were to advance science and technology by focusing on inclusive excellence and professional development.

Regarding professional development, COVID-19 both challenged and presented opportunities in meeting this goal. Representing POLY on the ACS Meetings & Exhibitions committee and coordinating with other professional societies, we are concurrently planning for a remote and hybrid meeting for Spring 2021 (San Antonio) – much as most universities are concurrently planning for remote and hybrid instruction. Regarding inclusive excellence, COVID-19 also challenged this goal and precipitated the Black Lives Matter movement. With POLY, I stand in solidarity against racism, intolerance, and violence in our country. Recent events force us to reflect on what we, as scientists, must do to eradicate the systemic racism woven into the fabric of our society and in our own institutions. Within POLY, we can increase the diversity of meeting organizers and invited speakers; we can also increase the diversity of our award winners. But we must do even more and hold ourselves accountable. As an active researcher, educator, entrepreneur and administrator, I would continue to focus on diversity and professional development. I would assist POLY and ACS in respecting and recognizing everyone's contributions.

**Biography:**

Dr. Kathryn Uhrich is currently Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences as well as Professor of Chemistry at University of California, Riverside. Dr. Uhrich's research links chemistry with the life sciences and engineering disciplines to create new materials and design new devices in which polymers can be used to increase health and extend life. Widely recognized as a leading innovator in polymer research, her research focuses on designing bioactive, biodegradable polymers for use in drug delivery, food safety and personal care. Dr. Uhrich has been issued more than 80 U.S. and international patents, and her work has spawned several start-up companies. Dr. Uhrich's innovative research in polymer chemistry and biomaterials has trained nearly 200 scientists. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, Controlled Release Society, American Chemical Society and POLY.

Service in ACS (selected): Member ACS since 1990. Member, Canvassing and Selection Committee, ACS National Award Selection Committee, Washington, DC; 2014-17, 2017-20; Chair and Member, Canvassing and Selection Committee, Kathryn C Hach Award for Entrepreneurial Success, 2013-2016, 2020-2-23; Member, Award Committee for Encouraging Women into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, 2002-05. POLY Division: Councilor and Committee Chair, Operations of Meetings & Exhibitions, 2020-21; Workshop Co-organizer, "Polymers in Medicine and Biology", POLY 2005-15; National Programming Chair, 2006-08.



## Candidates for Alternate Councilor



**Johan Foster**  
University of British  
Columbia

**Statement:**

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Alternate POLY Councilor. As an Alt Councilor, I look forward to helping the POLY Executive Committee to deliver the best product and services to the POLY membership; maintaining

POLY as a one of preeminent divisions within the ACS. I've enjoyed participating in ACS POLY since 2010. During this time, I have been co-organizing/co-chairing several technical sessions at ACS annual meetings, on areas such as "Advanced Functional Biopolymers and Biomaterials", "Supramolecular Polymers: From Structure to Advanced Functionality", "Protein-Like Structure and Activity in Synthetic Systems", "Next generation smart materials: structure, function and application" and "Responsive Nanostructures and Nanocomposites". Along with colleagues, we organized the "Next Generation Smart Materials" Workshop in Savannah, GA, in December of 2019. As these show, I have been an active member in POLY programming, and relish the opportunity afforded me here. I think the opportunities available in POLY, and to the general chemistry population, go beyond technical programming, and the networking and professional development the meetings, workshops and short courses provide.

I am excited for the opportunity to help continue to serve the POLY division as an Alt Councilor, delighted to serve the Division, supporting POLY councilors and representing POLY at the ACS Council.

**Biography:**

Johan is the NSERC Canfor Industrial Research Chair in Advanced Bioproducts at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He was previously an Associate Professor and the Digges Faculty Fellow in the Materials Science and Engineering Department at Virginia Tech. Johan has 90+ peer reviewed papers, an H Index = 35. i10-Index = 66. He has given 80+ Invited talks, been a session chair at a wide range of international symposia. He serves as Co-Chair of the nanotechnology division of the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, and was co-chair and organizer of TAPPI NANO 2016. He is a member of four peer reviewed journal editorial boards. He is an expert for the European Research Commission (ERC) Marie Curie Innovative Training Networks (ITN), an expert for International Organization for Standardization (ISO), ISO/TC 229 WG 2 and is the official departmental evaluator, University of Ghana, Department of Biomedical Engineering (2017-2019).



**Wei Gao**  
Dow, Inc.

**Statement:**

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Alternate Councilor for POLY division. I have been connected and greatly supported by POLY throughout my career. I also found great satisfaction from expanding my professional network, keeping connections with many enthusiastic POLY members

like you from around the world, and organizing POLY symposia at ACS National Meetings for us to engage and interact with each other. Separation and Characterization of Macromolecules and Particulates, Polymer Sciences for Everyday Things, Polymer Colloids, and Dispersion of Block Copolymers were well attended symposia and well received. I want to do more. As Alternate Councilor, I will support the many initiatives that POLY division is pursuing and help develop new initiatives to meet the needs and desires of the membership, especially due to and after the COVID-19 impact to our society. My goals are to find ways to attract, engage and interact with POLY members from different backgrounds and geographies, and to provide the most inclusive and dynamic environment for members. In addition to many great POLY efforts on engaging members, being a member of the Industry Advisory Board (IAB) of POLY division, I also want to contribute to POLY's great effort on helping industrial members or young generations who want to go to industry to find great careers and make a positive impact on our society and future generations. 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 at Dow. She received 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 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. 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. Her awards include NOVA Innovation Award from Rohm and Haas (2008), US EPA Presidential Green Chemistry Challenge Awards (2003 and 2013), and Vernon A. Strenger Scientists' Award from Dow (2019).