Chair’s Address

Thank you for giving me the honor of serving as the 2016 Chair of POLY. I have the great pleasure of working closely with Marc Hillmyer (Chair Elect), Diana Gerbi (Vice Chair), the dedicated members of our Executive Committee, numerous volunteers, and the staff of our Business Office to keep the POLY-ship on course. And of course thank you to the former leaders for setting that course.

We recognize that each of you have made a decision to join our Division. We are happy that you made that choice and hope that you continue to do so. Toward that goal, Marc, Diana, and I thought it valuable to take some time to tell our personal stories, through short videos, of the value we have found in POLY membership. You may view them at http://www.polyacs.org/302.html. When the time comes to renew your Divisional membership, I hope this will inspire you to think about the value you have found in POLY. Also, please feel free to share our stories (and your own) with potential future members – and don’t forget to mention the free 1-year membership to new members!

Reflection is a part of the human condition, so I think it is natural and appropriate for us to ask “how are we doing?” In the case of POLY, I think the answer is clearly “quite well”. I had the honor to co-chair (with budding comedian and 2016 PMSE Chair Qinghuang Lin) the joint POLY/PMSE Award Ceremony at the 2016 Spring National Meeting in San Diego, where I experienced the depth and breadth of our Division’s talent. There, we recognized the achievements of our distinguished members including our past Chair (Gobet Advincula), the 2016 class of POLY Fellows, and the winners of awards including: Flory Polymer Education, POLY Distinguished Service, Outstanding Poster and Video, IAB Student Travel, Undergraduate Oral Presentations and Posters, and invited participants to the Excellence in Polymer Graduate Research Symposium. You will find details on each of these awards, and the 2016 winners, in this Newsletter.

Particularly inspirational for me, was the Plenary Lecture “Innovation in a Mature Field: The Commercialization of Olefin Block Copolymers.” Here, Ted Carnahan of the Dow Chemical Company, presented superb examples of commercially significant technical advances in the mature field of polyolefins. I, for one, will forever more be hesitant to cite the maturity of our field to excuse us from striving toward innovative new technologies and products related to the mature polymers (polyurethanes and polycarbonates) that our company develops.

However, I don’t want to spend all of my time looking back – so just a few words about the future. Please consider participating in one of the four upcoming POLY workshops on Polymer Composites & High Performance Materials, Fluoropolymers, Advanced Polymer Materials, or Silicon-Containing Polymers and Composites. These high quality, topical workshops provide opportunities to learn from and interact with leaders in these fields, and also represent a great value for POLY members.

Also, please consider applying, or nominating candidates, for a POLY Division Award. Details and deadlines for submitting candidates for these awards, including the Carl Marvel, Video, POLY Fellows, Outstanding Posters, Herman Mark and the Mark Scholars, can be found on page 5 of this Newsletter.

Finally, I offer a sincere thank you to all of our members and volunteers. It is of course you that make POLY an organization of which we can all be proud.

POLY Chair
Karl Haider (Covestro)

(left) POLY Executive Dinner, ACS National Meeting, San Diego, CA
Absolute Molecular Weights and Sizes with your UHPLC...

and our μDAWN™ MALS Detector

Molar Mass
Absolute molar masses: 200 g/mol to 1x10^7 g/mol

Size
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Shapes and branching ratios

Conjugation
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We appreciate your membership in the Division of Polymer Chemistry, and encourage you to continue your support of the Division by renewing your membership. We also suggest that you urge your like-minded polymer colleagues to join! Remember, the first year of membership is free. If you need a reminder about why membership in POLY is so important or you want to help convince future members, please have a look at the recent promotional videos about the benefits of joining and staying in POLY!

**POLY Benefits Video**
http://www.polyacs.org/302.html

Karl Haider, POLY 2016 Chair
Covestro

“….as the university relations manager, I knew I would need to connect with a wide variety of professors and students. The Division of Polymer Chemistry provided the perfect environment to build these connections.”

Marc Hillmyer, POLY Chair-Elect (Chair in 2017)
University of Minnesota

“….the next generation of polymer scientists is where we put a lot of our focus and we’ve really established a tremendous network of scientists at all points in their career. …our more seasoned members are active in helping support and foster the growth of the next generation through mentoring and a very active awards program.”

Diana Gerbi, POLY Vice-Chair (Chair in 2018)
3M

“Being a member of POLY has helped me identify a network of colleagues and establish myself in the polymer chemistry community. For the small cost of a POLY membership, you can join a strong and passionate group of scientists that can assist you throughout your career, through discussions, networking, and guidance.”

The Value of POLY Membership

Free first year membership for new members OR complimentary 1 year membership for those not a member in the past 3 years.

Become a part of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry whose members are among legends in the field. POLY members enjoy the following benefits:
- Discounts on POLY technical workshops
- Access to job postings
- POLY LinkedIn and Facebook pages
- Polymer Preprints, Graphical Abstracts, Newsletters, and Books
- Many Award Opportunities

Sign-up on-line at http://polyacs.net/Membership/memberapp.htm or e-mail delinda5@vt.edu

POLY Membership Drive
The POLY/PMSE awards reception, held on Wednesday evening, March 16, 2016, at the ACS National Meeting in San Diego, CA, honored outstanding achievements by its members. Edmund Carnahan (The Dow Chemical Company), opening the event with a Plenary Lecture titled, “Innovation in a Mature Field: The Commercialization of Olefin Block Copolymers.” 2016 POLY Chair, Karl Haider, (Covestro) had the pleasure of congratulating this year’s POLY award winners following Dr. Carnahan’s presentation.

**Paul J. Flory Polymer Education Award:** Kenneth B. Wagener, University of Florida, is recognized with this award for his extraordinary contributions to promoting undergraduate and graduate polymer education. Professor Wagener has been a courageous and persistent driving force for excellence in polymer education throughout his career. Through formal and informal mentorship, outstanding classroom teaching, and exceptional scholarship, he has cultivated tremendous outcomes among undergraduate and graduate students alike at the University of Florida, while also inspiring countless other students in the U.S. and around the world to thrive and become leaders in our field. Moreover, he has generated superior institutional impact at the University of Florida through his leadership to establish and grow the Butler Laboratory into one of the most preeminent institutions of polymer education and research in the world. Wagener is untiring in his work and unwavering in his commitment to improving polymer education for all. The breadth, depth, and importance of his impact cannot be overstated. Special thanks for our award sponsor, ALBEMARLE (http://www.albemarle.com/).

**POLY Fellows:** Ten outstanding POLY members were honored recipients of the 2016 POLY Fellows Award for their outstanding achievements and contributions to polymer science and their profession. Recipients included: Travis W. Baughman (DSM Engineering Plastics), Brian C. Benicewicz (University of South Carolina), Kenneth Carter (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Todd Emrick (University of Massachusetts Amherst), Timothy Lodge (University of Minnesota), Sarah Morgan (University of Southern Mississippi), Bradley Olsen (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Buddy Ratner (University of Washington), Stuart Rowan (Case Western Reserve University), and Kenneth J. Wynne (Virginia Commonwealth University).

**Past POLY Chair:** POLY honored 2015 Past Chair Rigoberto Advincula (Case Western Reserve University) for his outstanding leadership to the Division with a special plaque and past chair lapel pin.

**Distinguished Service Awards:** Kathy Mitchem was recognized for her outstanding leadership and exceptional service to POLY. Kathy has worked in the POLY Business Office, located at Virginia Tech, for more than 15 years. She was recently recognized for 25 years of continuous employment at Virginia Tech.

In addition, several other awards were recognized and are highlighted throughout this newsletter. The reception was extremely well-attended by over 300 POLY and PMSE members and provided an opportunity to better recognize the excellence and community in both the POLY and PMSE Division. The evening celebrated the individuals who are the present and future of Polymer Chemistry. Congratulations again to all!
Rostagno Receives Video Award

The purpose of this award is to prepare young chemists to present their research in a short video/movie format and interact with a broad range of audiences, including more senior scientists and the general public. With this award POLY wishes to help develop the communication skills of young scientists, while simultaneously increasing their investment in the success of ACS and the POLY Division.

During the Spring 2016 National Meeting, held in San Diego, CA, the spring videos were evaluated and critiqued by the POLY awards sub-committee and one winner was selected. Congratulations Mayra Rostagno, University of Florida! The winner was announced at the POLY’s Awards Reception and presented with a $250 monetary prize. The videos will be on displayed during the Fall National meeting in Philadelphia, PA. and is currently posted on the POLY Web Page, Facebook and LinkedIn sites.

Calling POLY Graduate Students and Post-docs! Here is your chance to showcase your exciting/cutting edge research in a short video/movie format to a broad range of audiences and win a price. The deadline for the video award submission is July 1, 2016!

Spring 2016 Video Award

Mayra Rostagno
Department of Chemistry
University of Florida
Video Title: “Biorenewable Polymers”

View Video On-line: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRdUzjpYrx4

POLY Outstanding Poster Award

This award was established to increase the importance and visibility of posters being presented at ACS National Meetings in the POLY section. It is recognized that a great deal of work goes into preparing and presenting a high quality poster and POLY wishes to acknowledge and reward such efforts.

The POLY Poster Awards Panel reviewed more than 40 nominated posters during the Sci-Mix poster session at the Spring 2016 National Meeting. Nominees were judged on the basis of their contribution to the work, the quality and impact of their research, and their poster presentation and communication skills. Four posters were identified to be outstanding!. The winners were announced at the POLY’s Awards Reception on Wednesday and presented a $250 monetary prize. Thanks to our award sponsored Albemarle for making this award possible.

2016 Spring Outstanding Poster Awards

April Fogel, University of Southern Mississippi
Poster Title: “Synthesis of stereospecific glycopolymers hydrogel networks for the determination of the effects of network architecture on water content and structure”

Jawaher Alfurhood, University of Florida
Poster Title: “[Hyperbranched poly[(n-(2-hydroxypropyl) methacrylamide)] via RAFT self-condensing vinyl polymerization”

Trevor Schumacher, Wright State University
Poster Title: “Poly(arylene ethers) with ammonium groups located on pendant phenyl sulfonyl moieties for use as anionic exchange membranes”

Neil Dolinski, University of California, Santa Barbara
Poster Title: “Phase behavior of single component coacervates composed of random copolymers”

To be eligible for the POLY Poster Award, click, “YES” for “Consider for Sci-Mix” as you submit you abstract in MAPS.

Award Deadlines

Carl S. Marvel Creative Polymer Chemistry Award
Upcoming Deadline - 7/1/16
Purpose: To recognize and encourage accomplishments and/or innovation of unusual merit in the field of basic or applied polymer science by younger scientists.

POLY Video Award
Upcoming Deadline - 7/1/16
Purpose: To prepare young chemists to present research and interact with a broad range of audiences, including more senior scientists and the general public.

Outstanding Poster Award
Application Due: 9/1/16
Purpose: Increase the importance and visibility of posters being presented at ACS National Meetings in the POLY section.

Herman F. Mark Polymer Chemistry Award
Sponsored by: Elsevier
Upcoming Deadline - 11/1/16
Purpose: To recognize outstanding research and leadership in polymer science.

3 Mark Scholars Awards
Including: Young Scholar, Scholar, and Senior Scholar
Sponsored by: Elsevier
Upcoming Deadline - 11/1/16
Purpose: To recognize excellence in basic or applied research and leadership in polymer science.

POLY Fellows Award
Upcoming Deadline - 11/30/16
Purpose: To recognize excellence in all ways that POLY members advance our field of polymer science, either through scientific accomplishments, service to the profession, or both.

Award Information:
http://www.polyacs.org/AWARDS.html
or contact:
POLY Business Office
KATHYL@VT.EDU
540-231-3029
POLY Elections Information

The on-line POLY election was held Fall 2015 with a success of over 20.4% membership participation (819 voters).

The slate of candidates for the fall election has been selected by the nominating committee, approved by the Executive Committee, and listed below for your review. An e-mail will be sent to all voting members this fall which will contain a website address and login instructions for the on-line election.

If you do not have an e-mail address on file, a postcard with the information will be sent by mail. If you would like to update your mailing address or e-mail contact information, please contact ACS membership services at 1-800-333-9511 or e-mail: services@acs.org.

2016 Election Slate

**Vice Chair:**
Mark Dadmun, University of Tennessee
Sarah Morgan, University of Mississippi

**Secretary:**
Erik Berda, University of Florida
Mike Meador, NASA Glenn Research Ctr.

**Councilor:**
Frank Blum, Oklahoma State University
Greg Tew, University of Massachusetts-Amherst

**Alternate Councilor:**
Travis Baughman, DSM
Semra Colak, 3M

**Member-At-Large:**
Kevin Cavicchi
University of Akron

**Councilor:**
Mary Ann Meador
NASA Glenn Research Center

**Alternate Councilor:**
Toby Nelson
Oklahoma State University

Membership Committee Report

The Division continues to offer free POLY membership to new members or if you have not been a member for three years. Sign-up on-line at [http://polyacs.net/Membership/memberapp.htm](http://polyacs.net/Membership/memberapp.htm). While Division officers and the membership committee strive to recruit new members at the national meetings, there are plenty of other opportunities to recruit including regional and local section meetings or by holding a membership drive at your place of work. Anyone interested in running a membership drive for POLY, please contact Kevin Cavicchi (cavicchi@uakron.edu) or Kathy Mitchem (kathyl@vt.edu) to receive a simple, easy to use, recruiting packet.

In Student Chapter news, the University of Florida’s POLY/PMSE Student Chapter received the Best POLY Chapter for their activities in 2015. In addition to community outreach and social events, two activities set them above the rest. The Chapter established a polymer symposium at the ACS Florida Annual Meeting and Exposition (FAME) and organizing the Soft Matter Applied Research and Technology Symposium (UF SMARTS) at the University of Florida. At the FAME symposium there were five faculty and six student presentations, and 26 student posters. The UF SMARTS symposia brought together approximately 50 people from eight different divisions from across campus.

Special thanks to Sarah Orski (NIST) for organizing and reviewing annual student chapter reports and for taking the lead to oversee student chapters in 2016. If you have further questions about POLY/PMSE Student Chapters, please contact Sara at sara.orski@nist.gov.

POLY Student Chapter Award: (l-r)
Megan Hill (Univ. of Florida), K. Haider, (POLY Chair), and S. Orski (NIST)
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The Polymer Division Industrial Advisory Board (POLY IAB) remains focused on its core mission in 2016 aiming to further extend the industrial voice within the Division through activities focused on enhancing industrial programming and continuing support of various awards and educational initiatives.

2016 is a year of change for the IAB, starting off with a farewell to an important leader and visionary for the IAB in the past 5 years. After a successful campaign in 2015, Diana Gerbi (3M) was elected as the Vice Chair of POLY for 2016, and, hence, was released from her duties as IAB Co-chair to become fully integrated into the POLY leadership and the multi-year POLY Chair progression. On behalf of the entire IAB, we congratulate Diana and wish her great success in the near and distant future! In light of this election, Travis Baughman (DSM Engineering Plastics) has been appointed Chairman of the IAB, and Michael Hunt (Polymaterials) has been appointed as Vice Chairman of the IAB.

In recent years, the IAB has been very focused on growing programming activities and continuing support of industrial speakers and organizers, while maintaining our support of running educational and award initiatives. With the well-established Industrial Innovations in Polymer Chemistry (IIPC), now in planning for the sixth iteration, we have our signature symposium well-rooted in the POLY Programming slate. Additionally, we continue to seek out cross-divisional co-sponsorships to bring multidisciplinary research talks to the forefront while furthering our impact in the overall ACS. With a well-established link to the ACS Inorganic Division (INOR) via Nora Radu (DuPont) and Laura Stratton (Polymer Chemistry Innovations), we will continue to explore the interface of inorganic and polymer chemistry with two symposia in Philadelphia, while we continue cultivating new relationships with other divisions for future symposia. Keep an eye out for new collaborations in the POLY programming for San Francisco and beyond!

Finally, we would like to close our contribution with a big congratulations to some of our recent award winners. Joel Oxman (3M) has been awarded the 2016 Industrial Polymer Scientist Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of photopolymerizations and photopolymers. This award will be recognized in Philadelphia with a symposium to be concluded with a contribution from Dr. Oxman. We are looking forward to a great symposium! Additionally, the IAB has continually supported graduate student travel to national meetings, and we would like to congratulate Mr. Baraka Lwoya (Tulane University) and Mr. Jeff Lopez (Stanford University) for winning support to San Diego. The deadline for future Travel Awards are spring and fall prior to each ACS meeting. For specific dates and information visit: http://www.polyacs.org/649.html/. We are always interested in new ways to serve the POLY industrial community and welcome your suggestions and attendance during the ACS meetings at our Monday evening networking event or Tuesday morning board meeting. For more information regarding this thriving program, contact Chair: Travis Baughman (DSM Engineering Plastics, travis.baughman@dsm.com) or Vice-Chair, Michael Hunt (Polymaterials, m.hunt@polymaterials.de).

**POLY E-mail Discussion List**

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 . . .

1) Go to the POLY www site: [www.polyacs.org](http://www.polyacs.org)
2) Click on: POLY Electronic Discussion List  
   (on the right under “Quick Links”)  
3) Complete and submit the web site form.
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2016 Polymer Workshops

Polymer Composites & High Performance Materials

**July 25 - 28, 2016**  
Hilton Sonoma Hotel, Santa Rosa, CA USA  
http://polyacs.net/Workshops/16Composites/home.html

**Organizers:**  
Sarah E. Morgan, University of Southern Mississippi  
E-mail: sarah.morgan@usm.edu  
Daniel A. Savin, University of Florida  
E-mail: savin@chem.ufl.edu  
Mary Ann Meador, NASA Glenn Research Center  
E-mail: maryann.meador@nasa.gov  
Michael Meador, National Nanotechnology Coordination Office  
E-mail: mmeador@nnco.nano.gov  
Jeffrey W. Gilman, NIST  
E-mail: jwgilman@nist.gov  
Frederick R. Phelan, Jr., NIST  
E-mail: frederick.phelan@nist.gov

Fluoropolymer 2016

**October 2 - 5, 2016**  
Harrah’s Hotel and Conference Center, New Orleans, LA USA  
http://polyacs.net/Workshops/16Fluoropolymer/home.html

**Co-Chairs**  
Scott Iacono, U. S. Airforce Academy  
E-mail: scott.iacono@usafa.edu  
Bruno Ameduri, CNRS  
E-mail: bruno.ameduri@enscm.fr

Advanced Polymer Materials

**November 6 - 9, 2016**  
JW Marriott, Houston, Texas USA  
http://polyacs.net/Workshops/16APM/home.html

**Organizers:**  
Pal Arjunan, Eureka-GlobChem Consultants  
E-mail: arjunan.pal@gmail.com  
Erin B. Murphy, Kraton Polymers LLC.  
E-mail: erin.murphy@kraton.com  
Rigoberto Advincula, Case Western Reserve University  
E-mail: rca41@case.edu

Silicon-Containing Polymers and Composites

**December 11 - 14, 2016**  
Omni Hotel, San Diego, CA USA  
http://polyacs.net/Workshops/16SiliconC/home.html

**Chair:**  
Joseph M. Mabry, Air Force Research Laboratory  
E-mail: joseph.mabry@us.af.mil
2017 Polymer Division Workshops

Layered Polymeric Systems

February 21—24, 2017
Asilomar Conference Grounds
Pacific Grove, California, USA
http://polyacs.net/Workshops/17Layered/home.html

Organizers:
Eric Baer, Case Western Reserve University
David Schiraldi, Case Western Reserve University
Rigoberto Advincula, Case Western Reserve University
Jaime Grunlan, Texas A&M University
Karl Haider, Covestro

Polymers for Fuel Cells,
Energy Storage & Conversion

February 26 - March 1, 2017
Asilomar Conference Grounds
Pacific Grove, California, USA
http://polyacs.net/Workshops/17FuelCells/home.html

Co-Chairs:
Brian Benicewicz, University of South Carolina
Tom Zawodzinski, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

Advances in Polyolefins XI

September 2017
www.polyacs.net

Co-Chairs:
Pal Arjunan, Trelleborg Offshore US Inc.
Kenneth B. Wagener, University of Florida

Polymers and Nanotechnology

MORE INFORMATION COMING SOON

December 2017
www.polyacs.net

Chair:
Richard M. Laine, University of Michigan

Science Café Funding

Science Cafes are events that take place in casual settings such as pubs and coffee houses. They are open to the public or invited group, and feature an engaging conversation with scientists about a particular topic. POLY has set aside funding to support 3 such events during 2016 and are taking proposals from POLY members. Submit your idea TODAY!

IDEA TOPICS:
How polymers changes clothing
How your health is helped by polymers
Polymers and the environment
Good food, great polymers
Other Ideas? These are just examples. . .

WHO MIGHT ATTEND:
It would be up to YOU to publicize the event, circulate flyers, and invite attendees. You may want to target a group or make it open to the public. Ideas might include General Public, College Students, Clubs, etc.

SUPPORT:
Up to $200 to be used for . . .
Refreshments (Pizza/Drinks/Coffee/etc.)
Science Café Supplies
Other items will be considered.

SUBMISSION PROCESS:
Send a one page proposal including who, what, when, where, why, and how to:
Kathy Mitchem,
POLY Business Office
E-mail: kathyL@vt.edu

Division of Polymer Chemistry, Inc.
POLY/ACS National Meeting Activity

252nd ACS National Meeting
ACS Theme: Chemistry of the People, by the People and for the People
August 21-25, 2016, Philadelphia, PA
Primary Program Chair:
Malika Jeffries-EL

- 3rd Symposium on Poly(2-oxazoline)s and Polypeptoids
- A Materials Genome Approach to Structure and Function
- Advanced Functional Biopolymers and Biomaterials
- Advances in Functional Polymers with Sophisticated Branched Structures
- Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules Young Investigator Award
- Functional Renewable Polymers
- General Topics: New Synthesis and Characterization of Polymers
- Industrial Innovations in Polymer Chemistry
- Industrial Polymer Scientist Award in honor of Joseph Oxman
- Polymer Science at the Interface of Industry, Government, and Academics
- Polymer Science for Everyday Things: Polymers for Beauty, Sports and Leisure
- Polymeric Materials as Imaging Agents and Theranostics
- Polymers & the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI)
- Sequence-Controlled Polymers

253rd ACS National Meeting
ACS Theme: Advanced Materials, Technologies, Systems and Processes
April 2-6, 2017, San Francisco, CA
Primary Program Chair:
Corinne Lipscomb

- 13th International Symposium on Biorelated Polymers
- 50th Year Celebration of Macromolecules
- Carl S. Marvel Creative Polymer Chemistry Award
- Excellence in Graduate Polymer Research
- General Topics: New Synthesis and Characterization of Polymers
- Incorporating Polymer Science in the Classroom
- Industrial Innovations in Polymer Chemistry
- Polymers at the Interface with Biology
- Next Generation Smart Materials
- Polymer Applications and Characterization for the Medical Device Industry
- Polymer and Biomimicry
- Polymer Chemistry (RSC) Lectureship
- Polymer Composites and High Performance Materials
- Structure to Function in Supramolecular Polymers and Materials
- Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science

POLY Abstract Submission

ACS POLY National Meeting abstract submission can be completed on-line through MAPS at https://acsmaps.abstractcentral.com/members/client/acs.jsp. Abstracts submission deadlines are open spring and fall opposite of each meeting. A POLY poster and oral abstract should include title, authors, affiliations, abstract text, and key figure. Required word count is 150 and 250 words (figure is equal to 70 words). This content fits within the current ACS submission system and avoids pre-publication issues that were a major concern for our members in the past. POLY encourages poster participants to participate in Sci-Mix, which will make you eligible for the POLY Poster Awards.

POLY Program Chairs

Malika Jeffries-EL  
Boston University  
malikaj@bu.edu

Corinne Lipscomb  
3M  
celipscomb@mmm.com

Timothy White  
Air Force Research Laboratory  
timothy.white.24@us.af.mil

Additional POLY Session Information  
http://www.polyacs.org/8.html
Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science Symposium

The 11th annual Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science Symposium was held at the ACS National Meeting, in San Diego, CA with 18 oral and 25 poster presentations from 28 universities across the country. The POLY Industrial Advisory Board sponsored $500 awards for the best paper and the best poster presentation. POLY sponsored travel awards for the four runners-up. The NSF SusChEM: REU Site: Polymer Innovation for a Sustainable Future at the University of Southern Mississippi sponsored four travel awards.

The symposium featured an IAB panel discussion on Careers in Industry, with representatives from national lab, academic, and industrial laboratories. The program was co-sponsored by POLY, IAB, and USM School of Polymers and High Performance Materials. Special thanks to the symposium organizers, Sarah Morgan, Sergei Nazarenko, and Joe Lott of The University of Southern Mississippi School of Polymers and High Performance Materials for their continued commitment to this very important annual symposium. Polymer Undergraduate programs and awards are an important part of POLY’s commitment to its membership at all stages!

Best Paper Awards:
1st Place: Michael Martinez
California Polytechnic State University
2nd Place: Victoria Muir, University of Delaware
3rd Place: Eric Bruckner, Case Western University

Best Poster Awards:
1st Place: Jasmine Davila, Monmouth College
2nd Place: Joshua Bernier, North Dakota State University
3rd Place: Adam Wilkins, US Air Force Academy

Sponsored by Industrial Advisory Board and Division of Polymer Chemistry

Undergraduate Oral and Poster Awards: (l-r)
T. Baughman (DSM), S. Morgan (Univ. of Southern Mississippi), J. Bernier (North Dakota State Univ.), K. Haider (Covestro), J. Davila (Monmouth College), and M. Hunt, (PolyMaterials)

POLY Councilors’ Report

Meeting and Expositions (M&E) (John Pochan): The Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) accepted more than 12,000 papers for the National Meeting in San Diego, CA. The total attendance for this meeting was 16,398. The Exposition had 415 booths with 274 exhibiting companies.

ACS continues to lead the meeting industry in green chemistry efforts and has been named 1 of 5 finalists for the 2016 UFI Sustainable Development Award from the premier organization representing the exhibition industry, a significant accomplishment for our program.

As part of M&E’s comprehensive sustainability plan, print copies of the program book for San Diego were significantly reduced and a limited number were available for sale. 2,138 program books were sold as most members are choosing to use the online program or the download the Mobile App, which received 7,684 downloads.

In compliance with the National Meeting Long Range Financial Plan and the recommendations of the 2015 Task Force on Implementing National Meeting Financial Targets, M&E recommends the Early Member Registration Fee for the 2017 national meetings will be $440.

Council Policy Committee (CPC) (Frank Blum): CPC continues to work to ensure that the ACS Council runs smoothly. One of the items CPC is looking at the representation in Council by Divisions and Local Sections. Most of Council is represented by Local Section Councilors (360) with a minority of Division Councilors (90) as determined by the ACS Bylaws.

Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) (Mary Ann Meador and Robert Moore): DAC is working on ways to help divisions by putting together a compilation of “Best Practices”. As a starting place, Innovative Program Grant (IPG) reports will be made available to divisions on the DAC website and as a poster at upcoming national meetings. Also, DAC is working with ACS membership and publicity staff on a number of initiatives to help divisions recruit new members.

2016 Biomacro/ Macromolecules Young Investigators Award

The ACS journals Biomacromolecules, Macromolecules, and ACS Macro Letters in partnership with the Division of Polymer Chemistry are proud to announce the selection of Professors Cyrille Boyer of the University of New South Wales and Andrew P. Dove of the University of Warwick, as the winners of the 2016 Biomacromolecules/ Macromolecules Young Investigator Award. Professors Boyer and Dove will be honored during an award symposium at the ACS Fall National Meeting, August 21-25, 2016, in Philadelphia, PA.

Cyrille Boyer
University of New South Wales

Andrew P. Dove
University of Warwick

Full Article:
http://app.acspubs.org/doi/pdf/10.1021/acs.macromol.6b01223
The 12th symposium on "Excellence in Polymer Graduate Research" took place at the national ACS meeting in San Diego, California on March 13-17, 2016. The purposes of this symposium was to provide recognition to outstanding graduate students in polymer science and engineering, to foster networking and exposure, and to help develop the careers of future leaders in our field. We publicized this symposium via the POLY list server, POLY web page, and direct e-mail messages to over 100 departments that are active in polymer research. We requested that each department nominate one outstanding graduate student to speak on his or her original research in this special symposium. Each student filled out an application form and had a nominating letter from the research advisor and a letter from the department head.

This year there were 31 students in the symposium, with 22 oral presentations and 9 posters. Both the oral and the poster sessions went very well. The quality of the papers was generally high. There were a lot of stimulating questions during the oral sessions and good discussions during the poster session.

### Symposium Organizing Committee:

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Lionel Moh, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
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Taniya Kekunawela Pathiranage, University of Texas at Dallas  
Nick Pavlopoulos, The University of Arizona  
Morgan Schulze, University of Minnesota  
Jialong Shen, North Carolina State University  
Philip Taynton, University of Colorado Boulder  
John W.F. To, Stanford University  
Brianna Upton, University of California Los Angeles  
Wei Wu, State University of New York at Binghamton  
Weinan Xu, Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr. Karl Haider, 2016 Chair of POLY, came to the symposium at around noon on Monday to give an encouraging talk to the students. A group photo was taken with the students, Dr. Haider, and the symposium organizers. As part of the recognition, each student received a certificate plus a cash award. In addition, Wiley (Journal of Polymer Science) presented a book award (worth $250 each) to Nick Pavlopoulos, Morgan Schulze, Lauren Brown, and Jeff Foster. RSC (Polymer Chemistry) gave a one-year journal subscription to Adam Hauser.

This symposium was sponsored by the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division (POLY), and cosponsored by Presidential Event (PRES), Younger Chemists Committee (YCC), Division of Professional Relations (PROF), and Society Committee on Education (SOCED). The symposium had the generous support of POLY, Industrial Advisory Board of the Polymer Division (IAB), Tosoh, Wiley and RSC.

If you are interested in participating in the Spring 2017 Graduate Symposium, please e-mail H.N. Cheng (hncheng100@gmail.com) for additional information by September 15, 2016.
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