Wow! In January I was looking forward to my year as POLY Chair, planning to focus on ways to enhance POLY programming at National Meetings, expand our presence at Regional Meetings, and build upon our Webinars and Webshops to reach more members. I felt then and still feel that these are important because of their potential to help POLY members advance in their careers.

While we have made progress in these areas, more pressing challenges related to coronavirus really upended our operations. Events of this past year have highlighted a number of challenges facing ACS and made it clear we have a lot of work to do. ACS is addressing the challenges of operating in a virtual world, as well as issues of racial and social injustice, to make ACS a more diverse, inclusive and respectful organization. I wanted to share my thoughts on these topics, relevant, current and planned POLY activities, and solicit your ideas.

Conferences and workshops are always great opportunities to share ideas and make the personal and professional connections that help members advance their careers. It’s pretty clear that in-person meetings, at least in the near future, are going to be challenging. The ACS and POLY are looking for effective alternatives. POLY invested in the Demio platform to give us broader capability to produce and host virtual events. Our Programming Chairs and symposium organizers worked effectively with ACS in its first ever virtual national meeting to augment ACS programming with live Q&A sessions with symposium speakers. In collaboration with PMSE, we used Demio to host the POLY/PMSE Plenary and Awards Session attracting close to 300 viewers! We continue to look at utilizing ACS resources and other platforms to improve the virtual experience for POLY members at future national meetings. We also explore ways to expand webinars, webshops, and virtual panel discussions to provide more opportunities for our members to connect.

Diversity, inclusion, and respect are critical values for our profession and for Society as a whole. As a NASA manager, I have seen first-hand how promoting diversity in STEM can impact people’s lives while also enhancing the mission and effectiveness of an organization. Like NASA, ACS and POLY are diverse organizations with people of all ages, races, gender, sexual orientation, and professional and educational backgrounds. We are stronger together when we take advantage of and promote our diversity. POLY leadership recognizes this and, over the years, has looked for ways to advance diversity in elected positions, committees, and professional recognition, the latter being the most challenging. I recently formed a committee of POLY Past Chairs to help identify candidates for POLY awards, focusing on increasing the number and diversity of nominees. You can help us in this effort by nominating colleagues for these awards. We also plan to seed discussions on diversity in polymer science through virtual panels and webinars. We expect to hold at least one of these before the end of the year.

I hope that you will find the efforts that I have highlighted are worthwhile and will enrich the value of your membership. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for speakers, topics for virtual events, or other activities please feel free to contact me at michael-meador@sbcglobal.net. It has truly been an honor, privilege, and delight to serve as POLY Chair. A huge thanks to the POLY Business Office, ExComm, Programming Chairs, and committee members for all you have done during this challenging year!
Jeffrey S. Moore, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, presented his talk titled "Materials Functions for Polymer Lifecycle Control" during the POLY/PMSE Plenary Lecture and Awards Ceremony. Professor Moore was the first presenter to give a virtual talk for the Plenary Lecture. With over 300 people in attendance, the lecture and award ceremony was well attended! You can view Professor Moore's talk at https://www.polyacs.net/20fallpolympseplenary.

Congratulations to the 2020 recipients. Awardees were recognized during POLY's first ever virtual Plenary Session and Award Ceremony. View the award ceremony and award acceptance video at https://www.polyacs.net/20polyawards.

**POLY/PMSE PLENARY LECTURE AND AWARDS PROGRAM**

POLY strives to recognize members at all levels of their career including established investigators, emerging investigators, and graduate students, without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or sexual orientation. This is made possible by members, like you, nominating outstanding diverse colleges. The Awards Committee is unable to solicit individual nominations and serve to select awardees. In order for POLY to provide a diverse awards recipient list, we need YOU to nominate outstanding scientists.

### POLY Outstanding Poster Award
**Purpose:** Increase the importance and visibility of posters being presented at ACS National Meetings in the POLY section.
**Deadline:** Typically October & February - check web.

### Young Industrial Polymer Scientist Award
**Purpose:** recognize outstanding industrial innovation and creativity in the application of Polymer Science, conducted by young individual scientists.
**Deadline:** 10/31/2020

### The Herman F. Mark Polymer Chemistry Award
**Purpose:** recognize outstanding research and leadership in polymer science.
**Deadline:** 11/1/2020

### POLY Fellows Award
**Purpose:** recognize excellence in all ways that POLY members advance our field of polymer science, either through scientific accomplishments, service to the profession, or both.
**Deadline:** 11/30/2020

### ACS Macro Letters/Biomacromolecules/Macromolecules Young Investigator Award
**Purpose:** recognize two individuals, early in their careers, who have made a major impact on the field of polymer science.
**Deadline:** 1/18/2021

### Charles G. Overberger International Prize for Excellence in Polymer Research
**Purpose:** recognize/encourage accomplishments of unusual merit in the field of basic or applied polymer science, from researchers from anywhere in the world.
**Deadline:** 2/20/2021

**Awards Team**
- **Johan Foster**
  johan.foster@ubc.ca
- **Semra Colak Atan**
  semracolak@gmail.com
- **Toby Nelson**
  toby.nelson@okstate.edu

**Award Information:**
carleel@vt.edu

Click here to view POLY 2020 Award Video!
Royal DSM, the global Life Science and Materials Science Company, sponsors an award which consists of four finalists. During the ACS National Meeting these four awardees present their research and DSM judges their presentations. A grand prize is presented during the meeting. Congratulations finalists!

You can view their POLY Spotlight, including their abstracts at https://bit.ly/20Dsmaward.

Future DSM submission details will be posted later this fall at https://polyacs.org/dsm-science-and-technology-award/
LIVE WEBINARS AND YOUTUBE POSTS

The newest POLY and American Chemical Society collaboration Webinar was on August 6, 2020. The webinar, *Bioconjugation in Polymer Chemistry*, featuring Professor Coray Colina of the University of Florida and Professor Theresa Reineke of the University of Minnesota, was moderated by Dr. Laura Stratton of Polymer Chemistry Innovations.

This POLY and ACS collaborative webinar series featured two twenty-five minute presentations followed by a moderated question and answer session. These webinars are hosted by rotating POLY webinar committee members, composed of Brent Sumerlin, Tomonori Saito, and Laura Stratton, three times a year, this year on April 16, June 18, and August 6. Typically attracting hundreds of attendees, these webinars are a popular benefit organized by POLY. The POLY Webinar committee has an exciting working list of topics and speakers, and we welcome your ideas for topics and speakers for future webinars.

Past webinars prior to 2020 are posted to the POLY YouTube channel. April 2020 and future webinars speakers and titles will be posted on the American Chemical Society Webinars website after the initial live broadcast.

View Past POLY Webinars on YouTube  View POLY/ACS Co-Sponsored Webinars

POLY OUTSTANDING POSTER AWARD

The POLY Outstanding Poster Award was established to increase the importance and visibility of POLY posters presented at ACS National Meetings. Poster participants are judged on the quality and the impact of their research, clarity of poster’s design, and presentation and communication skills. Below are the 2020 Fall recipients!

You can view their POLY Spotlight, including their abstracts and posters at [http://bit.ly/20FallPosters](http://bit.ly/20FallPosters).

Sponsored by polymers
an Open Access Journal by MDPI

Enter the POLY Outstanding Poster Competition!
Details at https://polyacs.org/poly-outstanding-poster-award/
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. This officer attends 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.

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 kathyl@vt.edu or call 540-231-3029.

It is with pleasure that I share with you the activities of the Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) for 2020. It is in a time of diversity and hardship, that creative ideas for success seem to surface. IAB is facing the challenges of Covid-19 and reaching its members in creative and innovative ways.

It is through this creativity we that we succeed in remaining relevant to support opportunities for networking, programming, education, and awards.

**Highlights for the Fall:**

- Communication with its members using the Fall IAB Spotlight for posting relevant industrial events during and after the ACS Meeting.
- Participation in the Fall virtual ACS Meeting Monday August 17 with IIPS13 on the topic of Chemistry from Bench to Market, chaired by Peter Boul. This symposium also participated in POLY’s Q&A session outside of the ACS umbrella experience.
- Supporting the National Meeting Graduate Award to provide a total of four $750.00 awards for graduate student each year.
- In celebration of gender diversity in IAB leadership, four women leaders were invited to participate in POLY’s membership spotlight this summer. I was thankful to be included and congratulate Danniebelle Haase (Dow), Dana Garcia (Arkema), and Ann Mason (Eastman) for their willingness to inspire other women in chemistry.
- Of particular focus during the month of August, was keeping the value of IAB networking alive by offering virtual gatherings on topics our membership found relevant. Topics included sustainability and recycling, sustainability and energy, and industry involvement in POLY in the age of virtual meetings. Sessions were kept to no more than ten to encourage a round table discussion and all were very active meetings. Thank you to all who participated.
- Two new ideas have been generated and are being discussed further within the IAB to move forward: Distinguished IAB Webinars and New Industry Employee Virtual Networking. Keep an eye out for more information!

I am proud and inspired by the way the Industrial Advisory Board has risen to this challenge - with flexibility, resilience, courage – and backed by innovative ideas. Thank you for your enormous contributions. By sharing ideas and working together, we continue to stay relevant in this new normal. I encourage you to reach out to Vice Chair Peter Boul (AramcoAmericas, Peter.Boul@aramcoamericas.com) or me if you have any suggestions or if we can answer any questions.

Corinne Lipscomb, 3M, Chair of IAB, celipscomb@mmm.com

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**Call for nominations!**

**Young Industrial Polymer Scientist Award**

DEADLINE OCTOBER 31, 2020

Link: [https://polyacs.org/young-industrial-polymer-science-award/](https://polyacs.org/young-industrial-polymer-science-award/)
A Complete Solution for Polymer Characterization by SEC-MALS

The Winning Combination for your Polymer Analysis

**Greater stability and reproducibility than ever before**
- Extended pump temperature control for more stable flow rate
- Low volume degasser unit integrated in pump oven
- Temperature controlled autosampler tray (optional)
- Optional heated solvent stocker

**Extended light scattering capabilities**
- Innovative flow cell and optics design for unmatched signal-to-noise at extreme angles (10° and 170°)
- Direct molecular weight distribution by low angle (LALS – 10°) even for oligomers and low dn/dc samples
- Accurate detection of ultra-small differences in scattering intensity for size ($R_g$) measurements below 10 nm

**Powerful and intuitive GPC/SEC software**
- Molecular weight and $R_g$ data in just a few clicks
- Simultaneous multiple analysis methods for easy comparison of light scattering and column calibration results
- Simple and fast calibration procedures
- 21-CFR-Part 11 compliant

**High resolution TSKgel® columns for all GPC/SEC applications**
- Multiple packing materials for all types of samples and mobile phases, from aqueous to organic
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POLY WEB-shops

Designing Catalysts for Tailored Polymers
22 OCT 2020, 11:30 AM EDT
https://www.polyacs.net/
2020catalystwebshop

Web-shop registration is only $99.00 usd. Please register early to ensure that your ability to attend is confirmed.
***Each registration includes 10 access links for department sharing***
Register at https://www.polyacsnet/2020catalystwebshop.

Geoffrey Coates
Cornell University

Paula Diaconescu
UCLA

Charlotte Williams
University of Oxford

NATIONAL GRADUATE RESEARCH POLYMER CONFERENCE
The Inn at Virginia Tech and the Moss Arts Center
Blacksburg, VA USA
July 26 - 28, 2021

2021 Workshops

https://www.polyacs.net/workshops

POLYMERS AND NANOTECHNOLOGY
Organizer: Rick Laine
Embassy Suites, Napa, CA
21 – 26 FEB 2021
https://www.polyacs.net/
21polynano

POLYMERIZATION
Organizers: Brent Sumerlin, Kris Matyjaszewski, Nick Tsarevsky, Haifeng Gao
Hotel Emeline, Charleston, SC
14 – 17 NOV 2021
https://www.polyacs.net/
crp2021

FLUOROPOLYMER
Organizers: Scott Iacono, Bruno Ameduri, Jena McCollum
Embassy Suites, Denver, CO
19 – 21 JULY 2021
https://www.polyacs.net/
21fluoropolymer

SILICON-CONTAINING POLYMERS AND COMPOSITES
Organizers: Joseph Furgal, Claire Hartmann-Thompson
San Diego, CA
DEC 2021
https://www.polyacs.net/
21siliconc

SUSTAINABLE POLYMERS
Organizers: Marc Hillmyer, Thomas Epps, Megan Robertson
Safety Harbor Resort, Safety Harbor, FL
17-21 OCT 2021
https://www.polyacs.net/
21sustainablepolymers

Workshop Chair: Marc Hillmyer (hillmyer@umn.edu) or contact: Lesia Pristas (lesiar@vt.edu)
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

In membership committee news, Will Gutekunst has been appointed as the newest Chair of the Membership Committee. Will is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Chemistry at Georgia Tech. We look forward to his contributions.

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 https://www.polyacs.net/membership. 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 ACS meetings or other polymer-focused conferences. Anyone interested in running a membership drive for POLY, please contact Katrina Knauer (katrina@biocellection.com) or Carlee Black (carleel@vt.edu) to receive a simple, easy to use, recruiting packet.

INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING?

On behalf of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry, we would like to invite you to consider advertising in the POLY Newsletter. Our non-profit organization distributes the POLY Newsletter to approximately 4,000 of it's polymer scientist members. The POLY NEWSLETTER is distributed in June and October each year and describes the Division activities and announces polymer-related scientific activities worldwide. The POLY Newsletter provides an excellent opportunity for advertising.

For advertising information and options visit https://www.polyacs.net/newsletter (scroll to bottom of webpage).

Have you seen an ACS Webinar?

ACS Webinars are your source for online live and on-demand content, created by the American Chemical Society.

ACS Webinars connect you with subject experts and global thought leaders in chemical sciences, management, and business on relevant professional issues.

Webinars shown weekly on Thursdays at 2pm ET.

Watch for FREE at your convenience.

Upcoming ACS Webinars can be viewed at https://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/acs-webinars.html.

CONNECTING WITH POLY MEANS CONNECTING WITH YOUR COMMUNITY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLY E-LIST</th>
<th>POLY WEB</th>
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http://bit.ly/youtubepoly "ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry"

www.twitter.com/POLY_ACS @POLY_ACS

www.facebook.com/ACSPOLY/ "ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry"

www.linkedin.com "Division of Polymer Chemistry"
NOTE ON SUBMISSIONS:
The Atlanta meeting is seeking submissions from POLY members that tie to the meeting theme, “Resilience of Chemistry.” Symposium topics that feature novel advances in the field, and particularly ones highlighting pertinent areas such as self-healing polymers, antimicrobial and antiviral polymers, and high-throughput approaches to materials discovery are highly encouraged.

Please visit https://polyacs.org/symposium-proposal-landing-page/ for more details or contact the POLY Programming Team (hbrown1@dow.com).

As COVID continues to effect normalcy, the ACS Meeting is no exception. When ACS sends news of the 2021 Spring Meeting format, POLY will send an announcement to its members.
The Fall ACS Council Meeting was held virtually on August 19 due to the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic that continues to affect our personal lives and our work. The continuous and ongoing struggle in this country to create a safe and equitable society for all was brought to Council’s attention. The ACS encourages inclusivity and opposes discrimination in scientific learning and practice. Councilors were urged to take active roles in dismantling any barriers that may deter or impede their colleagues in their research or careers.

On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the Petition to Clarify Amendments to the Standing Rules and disbanded the Joint Board-Council Committee on Chemical Abstracts Service, contingent on approval by the Board of Directors. On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities, and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee, Council approved the creation of an ACS International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Israel, contingent on approval by the Board of Directors.

The Society’s 2020 financial performance through July 31st yielded a net from operations of $55.7 million, or $25 million greater than the same period in 2019. Total revenues are $354 million, 5% ahead of last year, and total expenses are $298 million, or 3 percent below last year. Unrestricted Net Assets increased to $466 million. The most direct revenue impact to the Society related to the COVID pandemic has been to meeting-related revenues with the termination of the in-person Spring National Meeting and termination of the in-person Green Chemistry Conference. Significant effort has been devoted to expense management. The Society expects to meet its budgeted net contribution of $41.3M.

The theme of the 260th ACS National Meeting, which was held virtually was “Moving Chemistry from Bench to Market.” As of August 19th, a total of 6,477 people registered for the Meeting, including 3,494 Regular Members, and 1,638 Student Members. In all, over 4,000 presentations were uploaded for the meeting.

Committee on ACS Publications (Greg Tew): Dr. James Milne has been appointed the new ACS Publications Division President. This was his first Publications meeting as the new President. ACS is launching a virtual platform, SciMeetings, which was developed in partnership with ACS Publications. ACS Central Science published a report to support ongoing research, which has received approximately 50,000 downloads, on the novel coronavirus disease COVID-19.

Committee on Meetings and Expositions (Mary Ann Meador): There was much discussion about the next few meetings, especially the prospect of the spring ACS meeting in San Antonio being held virtually, or partially in person and partially virtually. A decision will be coming soon, but if part of the meeting is in person, it will be limited due to size of the venue and the continuing need for social distancing.
The table below is a summary of the 2019 activity, the 2020 approved budget, and the 2020 income and expenditures for POLY as of July 31, 2020. POLY is a non-profit organization and as such, the Executive Committee is challenged to provide excellent services and growing benefits for its members while maintaining a balanced annual budget.

During this unusual and tumultuous year of meeting and workshop postponements and cancellations, I am happy to report that POLY has remained financially healthy. The dedicated POLY family has worked very hard to minimize spending and maximize output throughout the year. As of July 2020, POLY had $1.1M in investments which continues to support the budget annually.

The 2020 budget projected a significant increase in expenses related to “Meetings Activities”, primarily as special meetings, MACRO2020 and PACIFICHEM2020, were planned. Unfortunately, both of these have been postponed. As shown in the summary table, although the associated expenses have not occurred in 2020, POLY did collect significant income during 2020 from many sponsors. These generous sponsors have agreed to carry over their sponsorships for future events. This said, the spending of these funds will occur in 2021 and 2022.

As to best serve our membership, POLY continues to look for ways to reduce expenditures via increased virtual and electronic distributions, such as the enhanced and interactive POLY Newsletter, webinars, and webshops. The new Education Committee has been actively organizing symposia and creating the MACRO website for our younger and aspiring members, innovative ideas continue to receive IPG grants, and the IAB (Industrial Advisory Board) continues to support, organize symposia, and sponsor awards aimed at our members in industry. Student Chapters, topical workshops, and virtual webshops, organized by POLY members, offer great value to both the Division and our members.

POLY continues to highlight an array of awards and to annually fund (though the POLY investment fund) its major awards including the Carl Marvel-Creative Polymer Chemistry Award, the Herman Mark-Polymer Chemistry Award, the Paul Flory-Polymer Education Award, and the Industrial Polymer Science Award.

POLY continues to seek sponsors for receptions, coffee sessions, awards including student and poster awards, newsletters, and workshops to help offset growing expenses. Please contact Christine Coltrain, Christine.coltrain@kodak.com, or Kathy Mitchem, kathyL@vt.edu for further information about these opportunities.

The 2021 POLY budget will be developed during December 2020 and approved during the POLY Executive Committee Meeting in January 2021. Please submit requests for funding for committee activity, symposium support, and other POLY related activity directed to the POLY Treasurer, Christine Coltrain, christine.coltrain@kodak.com, by December 1, 2020.

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<td><strong>$664,662</strong></td>
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Report Submitted By: Christine Coltrain (christine.coltrain@kodak.com)
Treasurer
**EMAIL 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 . . .
Go to: [https://polyacs.org/poly-electronic-discussion-list/](https://polyacs.org/poly-electronic-discussion-list/)

Complete and submit the web site form.

Members can send e-mails to:
POLY-L@LISTSERV.OKSTATE.EDU

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

For additional questions, email: carleel@vt.edu

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**GRC/GRS on Complex Active and Adaptive Material Systems**

Date: January 30 - February 5, 2021
Location: Ventura Beach Marriott, Ventura, CA, USA

Purpose: to bring together a cross-disciplinary community of researchers from academia and industry, with the common aim of exploiting the complexity of non-equilibrium processes and architectured material systems to forge a new generation of compliant machines that can adapt to their environment.


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