

2021 POLY Election Statements and Bios

Elections Open: 10/16 - 11/16

The 2021 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 2020 POLY Election was a success providing approximately 22% voting-membership participation. POLY anticipates a repeat performance in 2021.

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.

Member-At-Large Duties: Duties for this office include: Attend and participate, when possible, all Executive Committee and Board meetings. Provide input to Executive Committee and Board on membership needs and concerns. Coordinate Membership Committee and membership affair functions. Keep Secretary well informed on possible news items for Newsletter and website on membership activities. Function as the principal communication link between the membership and the Board and the Executive Committee. Identify problems or opportunities pertaining to the membership. Actively maintain a webpage for communication of important Member-at-Large activities with the membership. Work with staff to ensure good electronic communications with the membership. Assume various other duties as directed from time-to-time by Division Chair and/or Executive Committee.

Councilor Duties: Councilors represent the Division at an ACS level. Once elected, ACS assigns the Councilor an ACS committee(s) on which to serve. The Councilors attend committee and ACS Council meeting, held during ACS National Meetings, to provide input to represent the Division. They serve as an active voting member of the POLY Executive Committee. A Councilor provides helpful feedback to Division Officers and the membership in regard to ACS level activity. POLY elects both academic and non-academic officers independently to best represent the broad interests of Division's membership. A Councilor is typically a seasoned POLY Member or past officer who can represent the interests of our Division members at the ACS level.

Alternate Councilor Duties: During a 3 year term, 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 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, Councilor, or serve on committees as needed.

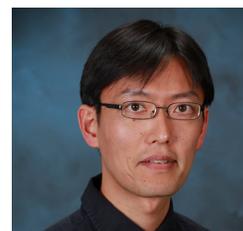
VOTING ONLINE IS EASY AS 1-2-3!

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.

Vice Chair Candidates



Dawanne Poree
Army Research Lab.



Tomonori Saito
Oak Ridge Nat. Lab.

Member-At-Large Candidates



Katrina Knauer
NREL



Erin Murphy
Exponent, Inc.

Councilor Candidates



Mary Ann Meador
NASA GRC (Retired)



Karl Haider
Covestro, LLC.

Alternate Councilor Candidates



Laura Stratton
Polymer Chemistry
Innovations, Inc.



Yoan Simon
Univ. of Southern
Mississippi



Candidates for Vice Chair



Dawanne Poree
Army Research
Laboratory

Statement:

For more than 15 years, ACS POLY has been “home base” for me when I attend ACS National Meetings. It’s the meeting location I seek out first when the National Meeting agenda is announced, and where I make plans to meet-up with “science friends” 1-2

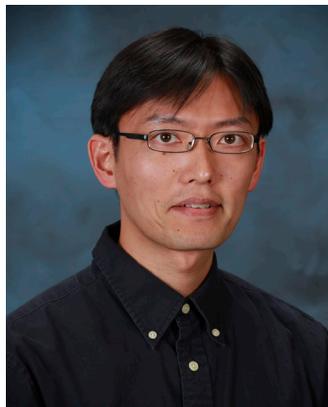
times each year. ACS POLY is also where I turn to for continuous education opportunities on a variety topics. The level of excellence, professionalism, and member commitment of this Division is second-to-none, and is why I am beyond honored and humbled to be nominated to serve as Vice Chair of this distinguished body.

As a prior member of the Membership committee, I know firsthand the commitment ACS POLY has to not only servicing current members, but also in actively bringing new members into the fold. As someone who has greatly benefitted from ACS POLY, I share this commitment and will actively seek to develop new initiatives with current and future members in mind. As examples, I plan to work to make ACS POLY more accessible by enabling more online programming and continuing education opportunities as well as developing initiatives that specifically seek to bridge the “student-to-professional” membership gap. Additionally, as polymer science continues to become an interdisciplinary science, this offers opportunities to strengthen collaborations with other Divisions. As Vice Chair, I will actively seek to cultivate such inter-Division partnerships with hopes to develop more joint programming that accurately reflects the interdisciplinary nature of our field.

I am excited and honored by the potential to serve the POLY community in this role, and I ask that you support me with your vote.

Biography:

Dawanne Poree is the Program Manager for the extramural Polymer Chemistry program at the US Army Research Laboratory – Army Research Office (ARL-ARO). She grew up in New Orleans, LA and received her B.S in Chemistry in 2004 from Nicholls State University, and her PhD in Chemistry from Tulane University in 2010 under Prof. Scott Grayson. In 2011, after a post-doctoral fellowship at Rutgers University with Prof. Kathryn Uhrich, Dawanne joined ARL-ARO as a Contractor supporting the Polymer Chemistry program, transitioning to government service as the Program Manager in 2014. In this position, she executes and manages a diverse portfolio in polymer science, totaling < \$10M in annual research investments, where she identifies and guides novel scientific opportunities to address fundamental basic research gaps leading to critical new technologies and capabilities for the U.S. Army.



Tomonori Saito
Oak Ridge National
Laboratory

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Vice Chair of the Division of Polymer Chemistry. I have been a member of POLY for more than 15 years since the time of graduate school and I have witnessed how greatly POLY benefits members like myself. The

past several years, I have served as a POLY webinar committee as well as organized various POLY symposiums at ACS national meetings. My leadership vision as Vice Chair is to be a proactive facilitator for POLY. I envision myself to assist the Chair and operation of the Executive Committee, as well as encourage members to be involved with POLY activities. I would like to continue excellent activities by POLY such as cutting-edge programming at the meetings, POLY workshops, POLY webshops, and POLY webinars. I would also like to further enhance collaboration with the other ACS divisions and organizations beyond ACS (international polymer societies as well as the other professional societies). I plan to create more opportunities to reach some of the members and non-members (i.e. potential future members), who cannot regularly attend the ACS national meetings. When I co-organized and moderated some of POLY webinars, I witnessed we had more than 500 or even 1,000 listeners tuned into the webinar. I hope to continue such success of outreaching in webinars and webshops, while I would also like to plan some interactive activities for POLY members such as web-based career panel, focus topic discussion etc.. POLY is led by a dedicated group of volunteers and exceptional staffs in the POLY business office. I am excited for the opportunity to serve POLY and its membership.

Biography:

Tomonori Saito is a senior R&D staff at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), and a joint faculty associate professor at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He obtained B.S. (2001) and M.S. (2003) from Waseda University in Japan, and received his Ph.D. (2008) in Organic Polymer Chemistry from Virginia Tech (Advisor: Prof. Tim Long). After conducting a postdoc at Penn State (2008-2010) (Advisors: Profs. Michael Hickner and Bruce Logan) and ORNL (2010-2012), he has been a staff member at ORNL since 2012. His current research at ORNL includes polymer upcycling, dynamic polymers, additive manufacturing, polymer electrolytes, carbon fiber composites, thermal insulation materials, carbon capture etc.. He has published more than 100 peer-reviewed articles, held 8 patents, won R&D 100 in 2012, 2016, 2019.



Candidates for Member-At-Large



Katrina Knauer
National Renewable
Energy Laboratory

Statement:

Since 2019, I have been privileged to serve our Division members on the POLY Executive Committee as the Member-At-Large. In the last 3 years, I focused most of my efforts on increasing POLY engagement with student members. This has

included recruiting new student chapters, obtaining IPG funding for professional development events, and implementing new student focused awards. In the last 3 years of my tenure as Member-At-Large, we have welcomed 3 new student chapters with 3 more are currently in the process of obtaining approval.

If re-elected as the Member-At-Large for the POLY Division (2022) my goal is to continue to support our student members as much as possible and increase their exposure within POLY. In cooperation with the exceptional staff in the POLY Business Office, I plan to work diligently to recruit and retain POLY membership as well as increase diversity and inclusion in the POLY membership base. I believe this can be achieved by focusing on schools with diverse student bodies, creating more exposure and ownership for active student members within the POLY structure, and providing more networking opportunities outside of the ACS national meetings. Although I am young in career, I have built an extensive network in academics, government lab, industry that I intend to use to build interest in POLY and to continue to serve as a the Member-At-Large to our current members.

Biography:

Dr. Kat Knauer is a Program Manager in Research at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) developing new chemical upcycling strategies for today's plastics and redesigning tomorrow's plastics to be recyclable-by-design. From 2019-2021, Kat led a small team developing chemical upcycling technologies to create new polymers from waste at Novoloop, a San Francisco Bay Area start-up company. Prior to Novoloop, she was a Senior Scientist at BASF focusing on polymer stabilization chemistry for plastic recycling from 2016-2019. Kat completed her B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Florida State University in 2011. In 2016 she earned a PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi under the advisement Dr. Sarah Morgan. She has been an ACS member for over 10 years and a POLY Division member for 8 years. In her professional career, she continues to be an active POLY member and has served on the POLY Executive Committee for the past 3 years where she has focused on improving POLY engagement with students and using POLY benefits to promote professional growth for members.



Erin Murphy
Exponent, Inc.

Statement:

I am excited to be nominated for Member-at-Large 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 programing 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 Member-at-Large of POLY, I look forward to the opportunity to serve the Division by representing the membership community's needs and concerns, identifying opportunities for growth and expansion within the Division, and maintaining active communication with the membership 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



Mary Ann Meador
NASA Glenn Research
Center (Retired)

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated for POLY Councilor, and would proudly serve another term representing POLY on the ACS Council and committees. I have been an active member of POLY for more than 25 years, and have co-organized numerous POLY-

sponsored symposia and workshops. For the past nine years, I have served as Councilor and am currently a member of the Committee on Meetings and Expositions (M&E) which is tasked with all things national and regional meeting related. I have previously served on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) which coordinates the activities of the technical divisions, and facilitates communications among divisions to help them better serve their membership. I also previously served as Membership Chair for POLY for five years. In that role, I helped reinvigorate the POLY Student Chapters Program, and carried out member surveys which provided POLY leadership with feedback to inform and enhance decisions which affect us all. I have learned much from working with ACS and POLY leadership, including how to work within the ACS to get things done to advance the goals and objectives of our Division. If elected I will continue to apply that knowledge and work with POLY leadership to enhance programming, improve communications and encourage new initiatives to improve the value of being a member. I will continue as a member of M&E to enhance the meeting experience and to work with various committees within POLY to advance our strategic goals and POLY's mission to be the premier organization for professionals working in the polymer enterprise.

Biography:

Mary Ann Meador completed a B.S. in Chemistry from Duquesne University (1979) and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Michigan State University (1983). She joined NASA Glenn Research Center in 1983 and retired from there in 2019. Her research interests focused on design and development of polymers for application in future aeronautics and space missions. Most recently, she developed polymer aerogels for application as insulation, and as low dielectric substrates for lightweight antennas. She has published over 200 papers and holds 33 patents. She is the recipient of a NorTech Innovation Award; three R&D 100 Awards; three NASA Medals; and is an ACS Fellow and POLY Fellow. She is also an Associate Editor for both ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces, and ACS Materials AU, and an Adjunct Professor in Polymer Engineering at the University of Akron.



Karl Haider
Covestro, LLC

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Counselor of the Division of Polymer Chemistry. I've been an active POLY member for last 15 years, through membership on the Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) and service on the Executive Committee as Vice Chair, Chair elect and Chair. I look forward to the possibility of serving the division as Counselor.

During my previous tenure on the Executive Committee, I focused on increasing the relevance of POLY programs and activities for our members who work in the polymer industry. Those efforts included co-chairing the first Innovations in Industrial Polymer Science Symposium and working with the IAB and the POLY Executive Committee to generate guidelines and gain approval for The Young Industrial Polymer Scientist Award. I also contributed to a POLY strategic plan, which included the introduction of a popular webinar series, virtual workshops and the "POLY Member Spotlight" program.

Since the role of counselor involves representing POLY to the broader ACS, I believe my ACS volunteer experience beyond POLY is noteworthy. I've worked with ACS leadership through service on the Committee on Corporation Associates, where I chaired a sub-committee on education and outreach. Additionally, since 2015, I served 9 rounds on ACS or POLY National Award Selection Committees and on an ACS Presidential Task Force on Employment of Chemists.

During my time on the Executive Com and POLY Nominations Committee, I supported diversity and inclusion efforts by providing female and under-represented minorities with leadership opportunities. Nearly 40% of candidates put forth on the POLY election slates during my tenure on the nominating committee, were female, all of whom were subsequently elected by division members.

I look forward to the possibility of serving POLY's diverse community.

Biography:

Employment: 30 years with Covestro (and predecessor companies) in roles of increasing responsibility in Polyurethanes R&D, Open Innovation and Intellectual Property Management.

Education: B.S. in Chemistry: Juniata College, Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry: The Ohio State University, Post-Doctoral Research – Yale University

Selected ACS Experience: Served 9 rounds on POLY and ACS National Award Selection Committees: 2015-21, Named ACS Fellow: 2020, POLY Industrial Advisory Board member: 2006 – present, Division of Polymer Chemistry Vice Chair, Chair Elect, Chair: 2014 2016, ACS Corporation Associates Member: 2009-14 (Chair, Subcommittee on Education & Outreach 2013-14), ACS Presidential Task Force Member - Employment of Chemists: 2015-16



Candidates for Alternate Councilor



Laura Stratton
Polymer Chemistry
Innovations, Inc.

Statement:

My name is Laura Stratton. I am honored to be nominated to be a candidate for Alternate Councilor in the Division of Polymer Chemistry. Since joining POLY, I have felt welcomed and a part of this vibrant division dedicated to advancing polymer chemistry within the ACS and beyond.

Service and volunteering in big and small ways is a part of my life. Alternate Council is a support role, and is ultimately there to serve you, the POLY members. POLY already has great value, in the workshops, travel grants, networking opportunities, technical programming, and the professional development that it supports. As your Alternate Councilor I will advance this opportunity to serve you on assigned committees that forward inclusivity, polymer education, and find ways to highlight and increase POLY value to all members, in part by promoting collaborations and by reaching out to industrial polymer scientists who might not be aware of the benefits of POLY. I am especially excited about exploring additional paths to promote POLY at the local and regional level as well as increasing cross-divisional collaborations.

Biography:

Dr. Laura Stratton is currently the Director of Science and Technology for Polymer Chemistry Innovations, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona, where she runs a research-centered polymer chemistry lab. Laura has written or updated SOP's, training manuals, and confidential customer proposals, internal process audits and reports. Laura received her PhD in 2012 from The University of Arizona where her work focused on catalyst design. Laura earned her BA (chemistry) from Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon in 2005 as a non-traditional student changing careers after a dozen years as an administrative assistant at law firms and volunteering with inner-city at risk youth. Laura worked between undergraduate and graduate school for a year at the American Red Cross National Testing Laboratory in Portland, Oregon. Her current interests are in poly oxazolines and specialized poly methacrylates and their uses in various industries from thin films to medical devices.

Since joining POLY in 2013, Laura is currently serving as Alternate Councilor. She has co-organized / co-chaired several symposium, joined the POLY IAB, and has contributed to POLY in other ways behind the scenes. Laura is Awards Chair of her local section and is General Chair of the 2021 ACS Rocky Mountain Regional meeting. Laura is a member of ACS since 2003 and is also a member of the American Ceramic Society.



Yoan Simon
University 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 16 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 an Associate professor in the School of Polymer Science and Engineering at Southern Miss. He received his Diplôme d'ingénieur (2004, M.Sc.) in chemistry from the Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Montpellier. Yoan moved to the University of Massachusetts, Amherst for his Ph.D. with Professor E. Bryan Coughlin in the Department of Polymer Science and Engineering to study on hybrid organic-inorganic materials. In 2008, he was awarded an ETH Postdoctoral Fellowship to work with A. Dieter Schlüter in Zürich (Switzerland). In 2009, Yoan joined the 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 received an NSF CAREER award in 2020.