

The 21st annual Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science Symposium was held in Atlanta, GA.

The symposium is intended to provide recognition to outstanding undergraduate students in polymer science and engineering, to foster networking and exposure, to introduce opportunities in graduate research and to help develop the careers of future leaders in both academia and industry. There were 19 oral presentations and 48 poster presentations from numerous institutions across the globe.

The symposium featured a career panel for graduate and undergraduate students. The panel was sponsored by POLY Industrial Advisory Board.

The panelists were: Dr. Kapil Dev Sayala, SEQENS; Dr. Boran Ma, University of Southern Mississippi; Dr. Alice Savage, U.S. Army Research Laboratory; and Dr. Jacob Blankenship, Syensqo.

### **Best Papers Recognition**

First Place: Ethan Mesde - California Polytechnic State University

Second Place: Kailash Adhikari - University of Southern Mississippi

Third Place: Lucas Orthous - Georgia Tech

### **Best Posters Recognition**

First Place: Mieya Kirby - Ouachita Baptist University

Second Place: Viggo Kovas – University of California, San Diego

Third Place: Olivia Downey - Xavier University

### Organizers

Sarah Morgan, Heather Broadhead, and Sergei Nazarenko - University of Southern Mississippi

### Sponsors/Support

POLY Industrial Advisory Board, POLY, University of Southern Mississippi

Two Sentence Summary:

The 21st annual Undergraduate Research in Polymer Science Symposium in Atlanta brought together undergraduate researchers from institutions around the world, featuring 19 oral presentations, 48 poster presentations, and a career panel sponsored by the POLY Industrial Advisory Board. Top honors went to Ethan Mesde of California Polytechnic State University for Best Paper and Mieya Kirby of Ouachita Baptist University for Best Poster, with the event organized by faculty from University of Southern Mississippi.