Dear Faculty, Staff, Alumni and Friends:

Greetings to all of you. In keeping with tradition, I have once again dedicated this edition of the Polymer Link to a general theme. Much like our University, whose core mission is and continues to be student success, I would like to share our college’s many successful student stories and recognition. Primary to these is student engagement at all levels. Providing our student body, now numbering more than 300, a world-class education in a similar environment is essential to our mission and parallels our University’s 10-year strategic plan, Vision 2020.

The lead story focuses on our student programs: Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU), Research Experience for Teachers (RET) and Enhanced Research Experience, all 3+2 programs, and our Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering Student Organizations (PSSO and PESO). Through these programs we have not only helped to create pathways to success for our current students, but for undergraduates and K-12 students as well.

The current academic year has brought, yet again, outstanding additions to our faculty. Dr. Yu Zhu from Rice University joined the polymer science faculty in August 2012. Dr. Younjin Min, from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, joined the polymer engineering faculty at the start of 2013 as an assistant professor. Dr. Tianbo Liu from LeHigh University joined the polymer science faculty as the Schulman Professor of Polymer Science in spring 2013. With these exciting additions, came the departure of Dr. Chang D. (Paul) Han due to retirement and sadly, the passing of Dr. Alan Gent. Dr. Gent’s many years of international recognition and acclaim is a tremendous loss to our college. (See more on page 16)

Our numbers for this past year set a record pace. Expenditures topped $15 million, with $14.1 million coming from faculty research. Student enrollment topped 300 (305) for the first time in many years. Of those, 96 are enrolled in our 3+2 program with nine Chinese universities, and an additional 50 are expected in fall 2013. Our faculty head count is currently 38, with four open positions yet to fill in 2013/14.

As we look ahead, I anticipate continued success. Our emphasis on polymers and biomaterials is attracting significant interest from industry through the Akron Functional Materials Center; currently 15 corporate partners have joined. Given pending federal cuts, I remain optimistic about our level of research funding. Our faculty publications and journal articles, and our private research funding from industry, remains as strong as any in the United States.

I hope you enjoy the success stories in the pages that follow. We remain deeply proud of our students and our alumni. Enjoy.

Stephen Z.D. Cheng, Ph.D.
Dean
In addition to its traditional master’s and Ph.D. programs, the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering has established programs to promote student success and educate students about the research opportunities and career options in the field of polymers and advanced materials. These programs include the Akron Global Polymer Academy, Enhanced Research Experience, Research Experience for Undergraduates and Research Experience for Teachers, five-year B.S./M.S. programs, and student organizations in polymer science and polymer engineering.

**Akron Global Polymer Academy**

Created in 2000, the Akron Global Polymer Academy supports initiatives in polymer science, polymer engineering and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) areas in P-16 education. The AGPA creates and disseminates lesson plans and modules for teachers to use in their classrooms to improve the quality of science education. It also hosts the Akron Regional Science Olympiad and the Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors each year.
Research Experiences

Within the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering there exists three research experience programs that allow the wealth of knowledge possessed by the faculty to reach beyond the graduate students in their classes. The programs are: Enhanced Research Experience, Research Experience for Undergraduates and Research Experience for Teachers.

The Enhanced Research Experience, in collaboration with St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, allows students and teachers to utilize UA laboratories and research resources as part of the Science Inquiry Project that all STVM students are required to complete each year. The program was created in 2009 with the help of Dr. Matthew Becker, associate professor of polymer science, and Mary Jo Chionchio, STVM Science Department chairman. With STVM's close proximity to the UA campus, its presence in the Akron community for more than 100 years and its commitment to improving STEM education for its students, the school seemed a natural fit to partner with the scientists at UA.

The Research Experience for Undergraduates, funded by a National Science Foundation grant, is a 12-week summer research program for undergraduate students from institutions across the United States. Since the program started in 2004, 144 undergraduate students have investigated a fundamental question within the broad disciplines of polymer science and polymer engineering. The students work with faculty members and graduate students in the lab, attend introductory lectures, faculty research seminars and panel discussions, visit regional laboratories and companies, and participate in planned social activities. The summer program culminates with oral and poster presentations at the Northeast Ohio NSF-REU Undergraduate Research Symposium.

In an effort to improve education in STEM fields at the high school level, Dr. Kevin Cavicchi, associate professor of polymer engineering, and Dr. Carin Helfer, assistant director science education outreach for the Akron Global Polymer Academy, created the Research Experience for Teachers in 2012. Funded by a National Science Foundation grant, the program provided 11 high school STEM teachers from the Akron/Canton area training in polymer science and polymer engineering for eight weeks over the summer. Each teacher received an $8,000 stipend and worked with a research group in polymer engineering, polymer science, chemical and biomolecular engineering or biomedical engineering. The skills and knowledge they gained is now being translated into lessons for their classrooms.

3+2 Programs

With its increased emphasis on global education, the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering has designed three streamlined master’s degree options. They allow students to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a master’s degree in just five years.

The accelerated programs are: B.S./M.S. in Applied Mathematics/Polymer Engineering; B.S./M.S. in Chemistry/Polymer Science; and the B.S./M.S. program with China.

The program with China, inaugurated in 2011, started with agreements from five top science and technology focused universities in China, grew to seven in 2012, and will expand to nine in 2013.

Student Organizations

The Polymer Science Student Organization (PSSO) and the Polymer Engineering Student Organization (PESO) serve as professional and social forums for students. Each year officers are elected for the two groups and meetings and activities are held throughout the academic year. These events include picnics for students, faculty and staff, visits to local companies, holiday parties and intramural sports on campus. The groups also sponsor guest speakers and trips to scientific meetings and conferences. Elected officers also serve on planning committees in the departments to provide a student voice to issues in the college and the University.

Students and Alumni Around the World

Through its student success-centered programs and world-class faculty and research, the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering has, and continues to attract, top students from around the world. Graduates of the college have gone on to win national and international awards, become world-renowned researchers and establish their own companies. These are the stories of some of their outstanding students and alumni.
Erin Childers

Erin Childers knew before completing her studies in biology and chemistry at Ursuline College in Cleveland that she would continue her education. Her search for the right graduate program led her to UA’s Department of Polymer Science. She says she was drawn to the biomaterials research being conducted and appreciated that the campus was close to her hometown of Cuyahoga Falls.

Now in her second year of the polymer science Ph.D. program, Childers is part of the Becker Research Group, and Dr. Matthew Becker, associate professor of polymer science, is her adviser. She is working to create a biodegradable polymer scaffold that will help to improve tendon-to-bone growth in patients that have undergone rotator cuff surgery. In addition, Childers has worked at the Cleveland Clinic on two projects; one during her undergraduate studies at Ursuline and the other as part of the Becker group.

As a result of her dedication to her work and her passion for science, Childers recently received the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. This prestigious fellowship provides three years of support for graduate study. Childers credits Becker, along with Dr. Rebecca Willits, associate professor of biomedical engineering, and Dr. Laura Smith, postdoctoral fellow in the Becker Research Group and former NSF Fellowship recipient, for their support and guidance throughout the application process.

Childers is the treasurer of the Polymer Science Student Organization for the 2012-2013 academic year. This is the first time she has held a position in the organization, and says that it offers a great way for the students to build a community and lasting relationships.

While she is still deciding on a career path, Childers notes, “I have always known that I wanted to do something in science, but I also want to do something that helps people and makes a difference.”
Carlos Barrios

Carlos Barrios came to The University of Akron after obtaining a B.E. in Chemical Engineering in 2002 at The National University of Colombia. He continued his studies with Dr. Bi-min Newby, who introduced him to surface science. After completing four peer-reviewed articles and learning about alternative polymer systems, Barrios earned an M.S. in Chemical Engineering in 2004 and joined the Department of Polymer Science as part of Dr. Mark Foster’s research group.

In Foster’s group, Barrios focused his research on the area of polymer surfaces and interfaces, and developed several novel approaches for chemical and physical characterization of polymer surfaces. He also studied properties of nanostructures that have applications that will impact the economy, environment and health. During this time, his research was published in at least 15 publications, and he was the recipient of the Distinguished Scholar Award by the Microbeam Analysis Society and the Ticona Excellence in Polymer Science Award for Outstanding Achievement in Academics. Barrios completed his Ph.D. in 2009.

Barrios then joined the Corporate Materials Laboratory at 3M. He has been recognized for his contributions in polymer surface science through his promotion to senior research engineer. At 3M Barrios has served as chair of the Tech Forum Adhesives Chapter, and created an alumni organization for CPSPE graduates working at 3M.

He says that the tools and skills he acquired at UA have served him well and he is looking forward to continuing to build his industrial research career at 3M.

Dr. Rong-Ming Ho

Dr. Rong-Ming Ho was first introduced to the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering by a University of Akron alumnus in Taiwan. He says he quickly recognized the quality of the program and knew it would be the perfect environment to continue his education and achieve his dream of one day becoming a professor.

In 1995 Ho received a Ph.D. in Polymer Science with Dr. Stephen Z. D. Cheng as his adviser. He then accepted a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science with Drs. Christopher Macosko and Frank Bates.

In 1997, Ho returned to Taiwan and began an assistant professorship at the National Chung Hsing University in the Department of Chemical Engineering. In 2002, Ho was invited by one of the top universities in Taiwan, National Tsing Hua University, to join its Department of Chemical Engineering as an associate professor. In 2006, he became a full professor and, in 2009, was named a distinguished professor.

While it took years of hard work and perseverance to achieve his goals, Ho says that he has always been lucky in his career, due to having great mentors like Cheng, Macosko and Bates.

Ho credits his research, family and seeing his students succeed as some of the biggest achievements of his career. He hopes to continue educating young people for many years.

Ho has received many awards, including the Ta-You Wu Memorial Award (Young Investigator Award of Taiwan) in 2003, the Outstanding Research Award of Taiwan in 2006, and the 2012 Department of Polymer Science Distinguished Alumni Award.
Dr. Chang-Woon Nah
Like many others, Dr. Chang-Woon Nah was drawn to the polymer program at The University of Akron because of its worldwide reputation. More specifically, he was interested in the rubber research being conducted by Dr. Alan Gent. As a Ph.D. student, Nah worked with Gent and researched primarily rubber compounds. Nah recalls his adviser as, “not only a scientist, but also as a professor, he was my role model.” He believes that it was Gent’s passion and guidance that motivated him to complete his Ph.D. in only three years, and inspired him to become a professor himself.

After graduation in 1995, Nah accepted a position in the research center at the Kumho Tire Company. In 1998, he accepted a faculty position at Damyang College in South Korea. Eventually Nah moved to his current position at Chonbuk National University in the Department of Polymer-Nano Science and Technology. He continues to study rubber materials, specifically the further development of rubber nanocomposites technology and advanced dielectric elastomers for generating electrical power from sea waves. Nah has published more than 150 peer-reviewed journal papers and directed more than 50 Ph.D. and master’s students.

Throughout his career, Nah says that his interests have primarily stayed the same — rubber related. “I always wanted to become a scientist who helps the world to become a better place,” notes Nah, who says he looks forward to continuing his career as a scientist and educating talented future scientists.

Zhehui Li
Having spent time in the United States as a part-time intern at Kings Dominion in Virginia in 2009, Zhehui Li was immediately interested in the China 3+2 program at Akron. She was drawn to the prospect of learning from some of the top polymer faculty and the opportunity to further experience the American culture.

Li now works with Dr. Xiong Gong, assistant professor of polymer engineering, and is currently researching polymer solar cells. Before starting the 3+2 program, she worked with Dr. Yingfeng Tu at Soochow University on projects involving graphene materials.

When she’s not in the classroom or the lab, Li enjoys being a part of the Polymer Science Student Organization (PESO) and serving as the vice president of the ACS Student Chapter. Li says that these organizations gave her the opportunity to make a contribution to the polymer engineering community and improve communication skills, which was a goal for her in taking on these leadership positions.

In the spring 2012, Li received the second prize of the DELPHI Innovation competition in Warren, Ohio. After completing a master’s degree in polymer engineering, Li hopes to obtain a Ph.D. in a chemistry-related field and to one day become a professor.
Mark Mackura

Being honored as one of the first students in a new program has been an exciting challenge for Mark Mackura, a fifth-year student in the B.S./M.S. for Applied Mathematics and Polymer Engineering at UA.

Mackura began his studies in mechanical polymer engineering, but quickly decided he wanted a way to expedite his degree track while further exploring the development of polymer applications using computations. The B.S./M.S. program seemed an ideal pathway to achieve his goal.

Now in his last year of the program, Mackura is working with Dr. David Simmons, assistant professor of polymer engineering, to investigate the slip boundary condition in the flow of unentangled, confined, glass-forming polymer melts using coarse grained simulations.

Mackura also has completed internships at Bridgestone Americas, working in its research department, and for a company in Chicago where he worked on product development. Mackura is a member of UA’s Society of Automotive Engineers team, and served as captain of the Supermileage team and president of the SAE team.

As he nears graduation, Mackura is looking to start a career in product development. While on the SAE team he enjoyed working with carbon fiber composites and has a passion to continue to work on products with automotive applications.
Nick Neill

While his peers are working on projects typically seen in a high school science classroom, Nick Neill, a senior at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School in Akron, can be found a short distance away in Dr. Abraham Joy’s lab in the Goodyear Polymer Center on The University of Akron campus. This is Neill’s third year working with Joy, an assistant professor of polymer science, as part of the Enhanced Research Experience program between the school and the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering.

It was Neill’s science teacher who encouraged him to apply for the program. During his first two years, Neill worked on developing a polymer wound application capable of administering antibiotics, dyes and other necessary substances. He is now working in conjunction with graduate student, Kaushik Mishra, on developing a drug delivery system. Neill’s goals for the project include publishing and eventually seeing his work used in “real life” applications.

When asked about the advantages of this program over the traditional science project, Neill noted, “The other projects are limited to what high school students can do. With this program, I am able to do research that real scientists are doing. It is college level and beyond.”

When he is not busy studying for his full schedule of advanced placement classes, or working in Joy’s lab, Neill serves as the president of the Model United Nations Team and enjoys golfing and reading.

After graduation, he plans to attend The University of Akron and enroll in the Honors College while he pursues dual degrees in biochemistry and chemical engineering. Neill hopes to one day earn a Ph.D. in one of those areas.
Dr. Seungwook Lee

After obtaining a degree in textile engineering from Seoul University in Seoul, Korea, Dr. Seungwook Lee took the advice of his professors and enrolled in the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering at The University of Akron to pursue his Ph.D. Noting this decision as one of the biggest successes in his career, Lee is proud to be a UA graduate and to have met the people he did, especially Drs. Mukerrem Cakmak for his MS degree and Stephen Cheng for his Ph.D.

After graduation, Lee took a job developing flame retardant polymers and branched polymers for Cheil Industries. Not long after, he was moved to the new business development planning team at the Samsung headquarters, where he was responsible for finding and incubating new businesses in electronic materials. In this position Lee developed more than 20 new businesses, including the polarizing film business at Cheil. After seeing sales grow from $90 million to $600 million in just three years, Lee was promoted to vice president of Samsung in 2010. He has since launched two new businesses as part of the strategy-planning team.

Looking to the future, Lee hopes to have continued success in his career at Samsung, Cheil Industries. He is a proud husband and father of two children and notes his family as his motivation to be successful.

Dr. James Scobbo

After receiving a B.S. in Chemical Engineering at The University of Akron in 1984, Dr. James Scobbo was drawn to the rich history of world-class research and industrial infrastructure of UA’s College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. He went on to earn M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in polymer engineering with Dr. Nobuyuki Nakajima as his adviser. He also earned an M.S. in Physics at UA and an MBA at Union College.

Scobbo, who is the 2012 recipient of the Department of Polymer Engineering Distinguished Alumni Award, launched his career upon completion of his Ph.D. in 1989.

He first joined the research department at General Electric in Schenectady, N.Y., and worked with polymer blends. From there, he went on to other areas at GE, including analytics, product development and management.

After 23 years in the industry, Scobbo is now the global analytical technology leader for the Saudi Arabia Basic Industry’s (SABIC) Innovative Plastics business in Mt. Vernon, Ind. He leads a team of more than 200 technologists around the world in their dual role as solution providers and collaborators.

Throughout his time in the industry, Scobbo has taught short courses around the world and has many patents and publications to his credit. He notes that these scholarly accomplishments, as well as his current work in recruiting, have been among the most rewarding aspects of his career.

“I like building the organization and helping people grow in their careers,” says Scobbo, who adds that he is enjoying his executive management responsibilities and looking forward to where this journey will take him next.
Meet the Students

Each year, the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering attracts top students from around the world to join its 3+2, master’s and Ph.D. programs. This year has been no exception. Here you will find the newest members of the CPSPE.

**POLYMER SCIENCE**

**3+2 China**

- **Zhang Fan**
  Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- **Lu Han**
  Sichuan University
- **Tianlu He**
  East China University of Science and Technology
- **Jiahuan Hu**
  Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- **Geng Hua**
  East China University of Science and Technology
- **Dan Huang**
  Beijing University of Chemical Technology
- **Li Kai**
  Beijing University of Chemical Technology
- **Mingxuan Li**
  Sichuan University
- **Zhengpeng Li**
  Sichuan University
- **Kewei Liu**
  Sichuan University
- **Pengtao Lu**
  East China University of Science and Technology
- **Jialin Mao**
  Beijing University of Chemical Technology
- **Bo Ni**
  Soochow University
- **Lin Qi**
  Beijing University of Chemical Technology
- **Wenpeng Shan**
  East China University of Science and Technology
- **Hao Su**
  Sichuan University
- **Ding Tian**
  Sichuan University
- **Weiran Wang**
  Beijing University of Chemical Technology
- **Yue Wang**
  Beijing University of Chemical Technology
- **Zewei Wang**
  Shanghai Jiao Tong University
- **Kan Wu**
  Donghua University
- **Wanyao Xiao**
  Donghua University
- **Aozhen Xie**
  South China University of Technology
- **Zhengnan Yang**
  East China University of Science and Technology
- **Mengmeng Yao**
  Beijing University of Chemical Technology
- **Wenbin Yin**
  Soochow University
- **Xianglin Yin**
  Beijing University of Science and Technology
- **Bona Yu**
  Beijing University of Science and Technology
- **Yuxin Zhai**
  Sichuan University
- **Sunsheng Zhu**
  Beijing University of Science and Technology
- **M.S.**
  Hanki Park
  Seoul National University
- **Ph.D.**
  Gaurav Armaury
  IIT-Delhi
  Vrushali Bhagat
  Institute of Chemical Technology
POLYMER ENGINEERING

3+2 China
Jinwei Cao
Yan Chen
Jiaxi Li
Wenqi Li
Chang Liu
Yan Luo
Yi Wang
Tong Xu
Shaoguang Yang
Huan Zhang

M.S.
Guodong Deng
School of Material Science and Engineering
Fanhuì Jiàng
Hangzhou Normal University
Edward Norton
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Fang Peng
Sichuan University
Kai Wang
Beijing University of Chemical Technology
Xiao Zhang
University of Washington, Seattle

Ph.D.
Gamze Bas
Gebze Institute of Technology
Xiang Gao
Sichuan University
Danielle Grolman-Diversity
University of Massachusetts Amherst
Ruixian He
Fudan University
Juíhsiang Hung
National Taiwan University
Min Jung Joo
Michigan State University
Willis Lecorchiek
The University of Akron
Je Hoon Lee
Korea University
Mingzhe Li
Xian Jiaotong University
Weston Merling
University of Dayton
Prasad Raut
IIT-Kanpur
Saumil Samant
Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai
Sayali Satam
Institute of Chemical Technology Mumbai
Ankit Tiwari
Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee
Clinton Weiner
University of North Dakota

Elaheh (Anna) Chamsaz
The University of Akron
Yu-Ming Chen
National Taiwan University
Sayedali Eghtesadi
Sharif University of Technology
Dona Foster
Purdue University
Yunyi Gao
East China University of Science and Technology
Jacob Hill
Catawba College
Ricky Kaiser
Youngstown State University
Shan Li
Sichuan University
Yawei Liang
Peking University
Zhuonan Liu
Nankai University
Chinese Academy of Sciences
Steven Mankoci
Saginaw Valley State University
Carolynn Moore
John Carroll University
Alankar Rastog
IIT-Delhi
Pushkar Sathe
IIT-Kanpur
Xin Tan
Sun Yat-sen University
Ming Xiao
Sichuan University
Kun Yang
USTC
Jie Yu
Yangzhou University
Beijing University of Chemical Technology
Shichen Yuan
USTC
The ninth annual Northeast Ohio Undergraduate Research Symposium brought together 76 undergraduate interns at The University of Akron, Kent State University, Case Western Reserve University and NASA Glenn Research Center, and their faculty advisers on Aug. 2, 2012. The NOURS Symposium was hosted at UA’s Goodyear Polymer Center.

Since its inception in 2004, the participating institutions host the symposium on a rotating schedule. It provides students participating in the National Science Foundation-funded Research Experience for Undergraduate (REU) internship program the opportunity to present their research findings. The REU pairs undergraduate students with new or ongoing research projects in an area that is supported by the NSF. The students in the REU programs come from undergraduate institutions across the United States.

During the symposium two students from each program gave oral presentations about their research, and all 76 students presented research posters. The oral presentations were:

- **Synthesis and Characterization of Glycoinimers**
  Sarah Blosser,
  The College of Wooster
  Advisor: Dr. Coleen Pugh,
  The University of Akron

- **An Exploration into the Adhesion of Spider Silk Using Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy**
  Kelley Chen,
  The Pennsylvania State University
  Advisor: Dr. Toshikazu Miyoshi,
  The University of Akron

**Pictured (left top): Research interns from The University of Akron, Kent State University, Case Western Reserve University and NASA Glenn Research Center at the NOURS Symposium.**

**Middle left: REU Intern Sarah Blosser**

**Middle right: REU Intern Kelley Chen**

**Bottom: The University of Akron REU Interns**
Halie Nitzsche of Akron, Ohio and Robert Keller IV of Canton, Michigan were named winners of the fourth annual Rubber Band Contest for Young Inventors, hosted by The University of Akron’s Akron Global Polymer Academy. Each received $2,500.

Halie, a Revere Middle School student, was the winner in the Arts and Leisure Division with her Rubber Band Tree, a home accent piece — that incorporates pipe, plaster, newspaper and rubber bands, and doubles as an air freshener. Air-freshening beads stay in the tree’s pipe trunk and can be replaced as necessary. Robert, a Miller Elementary School student, was the winner in the Science and Engineering Division with his Piano Page Turner. This invention allows musicians to turn music pages by stepping on a binder clip attached to a wooden block that causes a chain reaction controlled by a rubber band.

Grace Murphy of Colorado Springs, Colo., earned runner-up honors in the Arts and Leisure Division with her Rubber Band Tree, a home accent piece — that incorporates pipe, plaster, newspaper and rubber bands, and doubles as an air freshener. Air-freshening beads stay in the tree’s pipe trunk and can be replaced as necessary.

Robert, a Miller Elementary School student, was the winner in the Science and Engineering Division with his Piano Page Turner. This invention allows musicians to turn music pages by stepping on a binder clip attached to a wooden block that causes a chain reaction controlled by a rubber band.

The 2013 northeast ohio Undergraduate Research Symposium will be hosted by Case Western Reserve University.
Industrial Community Assistantship

With the announcement of Vision 2020: A New Gold Standard of University Performance and the Akron Model in 2012, The University of Akron has set in motion a plan to establish a new standard for public research universities in adding economic value and enriching lives. One of the pathways to achieving these goals is through Connectivity for Economic Vitality.

This is a pathway that the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering has encouraged for years. Our success in this area is seen through collaborative research initiatives, such as those found in the Akron Functional Materials Center, and through the students who participate in Industrial Community Assistantship Programs in Graduate Education.

The assistantship program is a partnership between the University and organizations in Northeast Ohio. It provides graduate students with opportunities to receive training in the workforce while working toward advanced degrees. The assistantships require a commitment of 16 to 20 hours a week. They continue from nine months to one year and can be renewed. The stipends are provided by the sponsor and a matching fellowship is provided by the University.

Currently, the college has eight graduate students taking advantage of this assistantship opportunity. They are:
- Kan Yue, Akron Polymer Systems
- I-Fan Hsieh, Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
- Ila Badge, Goodyear
- Nishad Dhopatkar, Lubrizol
- Xiao Wang, Lubrizol Advanced Materials
- Gurpreet Singh, Promerus
- Arzu Hayirlioglu, Promerus
- Mauricio Echeverri, Kent Displays, Inc.

The benefits of the assistantships are twofold. Participating students gain experience in the corporate world while still in school. The organizations are able to work with these students for an extended period of time and often hire them after they graduate as full-time employees.

Akron Regional Science Olympiad Tournament

The 2012 Akron Regional Science Olympiad, sponsored by Time Warner Cable and The University of Akron, and hosted by the Akron Global Polymer Academy, was held on March 3. Students from middle schools and high schools around the Akron area competed with the hopes of advancing to the state tournament and eventually the National Science Olympiad Tournament.

Middle School
1. Copley-Fairlawn
2. Revere
3. Seton Catholic
4. Nordonia Hills
5. Oakwood
6. Orrville

High School
1. Revere
2. Nordonia
3. Hudson
4. Stow-Munroe Falls

Alumni Day

Distinguished Alumni Award Winners

Faculty, staff and alumni from the departments of polymer science and polymer engineering gathered together for Alumni Day on Friday, Oct. 5, 2012.

Speakers for the day included Dr. Christopher Macosko, University of Minnesota; Dr. Benjamin Hsiao, Stonybrook University; Dr. Christopher Li, Drexel University; Dr. Rong-Ming Ho, National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan; Dr. Chanjoong Kim, Liquid Crystal Institute, Kent State University; Dr. Donald Metzler, Lubrizol Advanced Materials; Dr. Nobuyuki Nakajima, professor emeritus, polymer engineering; and Dr. James Scobbo, SABIC Innovative Plastics.

Ho and Scobbo were recognized at the event as the Distinguished Alumni Award Winners for Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering.
Co-Principal Investigators Dr. Kevin Cavicchi and Dr. Carin Helfer were awarded $390,921 from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the Research Experience for Teachers (RET) in Engineering and Computer Science Program. This collaboration to involve more teachers in research at UA is a natural extension of their ongoing interests.

Cavicchi, an associate professor of polymer engineering, had worked previously with a high school teacher through a research grant from the chemistry division of the NSF. Helfer has had numerous interactions with K-12 STEM teachers through her work as assistant director of science education outreach with the Akron Global Polymer Academy (AGPA).

In summer 2012, the first year of the program, 11 high school science teachers from the Akron-Canton area came to campus for an eight-week program that focused on polymeric films and interfaces. The teachers were paired with engineering faculty in polymer engineering, polymer science, chemical engineering, and biomedical engineering and given an individual research project to expose them to engineering research.

The teachers also took part in professional development activities that included lectures from faculty mentors on the engineering aspects of their research, individual presentations by the teachers to their core group, and workshops on engineering fundamentals, the learning cycle and curriculum development. Based on their activities, the teachers developed individual lesson plans to use in their classrooms.

Throughout this academic year, Cavicchi and Helfer are visiting the teachers’ classrooms to observe the newly developed lesson plans in action. Helfer is also posting the lesson plans on the AGPA website for broader dissemination to the K-12 community.

On Nov. 10, a workshop was held to disseminate the results of the program to other local science teachers. Cavicchi explained the objective of the RET program, three 2012 participants gave presentations on their experiences and research project, and Helfer demonstrated different polymer science activities that were provided to all of the workshop attendees for use in their classrooms.

For the spring American Chemical Society meeting in New Orleans, Cavicchi will present a symposium on the RET programs titled “Integrating Chemistry and Polymer Science Research in the Classroom” with Prof. Sarah Morgan of the University of Southern Mississippi.

Based on the satisfaction expressed by participating teachers, the first year of the RET program is a success. For example, one teacher wrote in the program evaluation, “This experience was exceptional; it was well thought out, and it unfolded as well as I could have hoped it would.” Several teachers also expressed interest in returning to the program in summer 2013 to continue their research.

The program is currently scheduled to continue for the next two summers and will establish a new model for interaction between The University of Akron and K-12 STEM educators.
A native of Leicester, England, he joined the faculty at UA in 1961 and spent the next half century as a pioneer in his field. Internationally known, Gent was widely regarded as the foremost expert on the fracture mechanics of rubber and plastics. His research yielded significant contributions to the world’s understanding of the physics of adhesion and the fracture of rubbery, crystalline and glassy polymers. Gent’s work had the potential of impacting nearly every rubber or plastic product developed today.

Being an outstanding educator is also part of Gent’s legacy. He possessed a unique gift for bringing complex concepts into clear focus in both the laboratory and the classroom. He directed to completion more than 40 Ph.D. dissertations and 35 M.S. theses.

“Brilliant and unassuming, Dr. Gent was both a remarkable scientist and a remarkable man,” said Dr. Stephen Cheng, dean of the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. “From the beginning of his ties to The University of Akron, it was clear he possessed an extraordinary knowledge of and passion for his field. His pioneering work was coveted by global research and development firms, his contemporaries and students, and the University gratefully acknowledges Dr. Gent’s invaluable role in helping position it as a leading center for polymer science and polymer engineering research. Truly, Dr. Gent was a visionary scientist and educator.”

Born in 1927, Gent was educated at the University of London, where he earned degrees in physics and math before receiving a Ph.D. in 1955 on the mechanics of deformation and fracture of rubber and plastics. At the age of 17, he worked as a research assistant at the John Bull Rubber Co. and served the British Army from 1947-49 before becoming a research physicist and later a principal physicist at the British Rubber Producer’s Research Association, where he initiated a program in engineering research.

Alan Gent, the Dr. Harold A. Morton Professor Emeritus of Polymer Physics and Polymer Engineering at The University of Akron, passed away on September 20, 2012, at the age of 84.
“Brilliant and unassuming, Dr. Gent was both a remarkable scientist and a remarkable man”  Stephen Cheng

Just two years after joining UA as a professor of polymer physics in the Institute of Rubber Research, Gent was named assistant director of the Institute of Polymer Science. He served in this role until 1978, when he was named dean of graduate studies and research, a post he held for eight years. Gent returned full time to research and teaching, as the Dr. Harold A. Morton Professor of Polymer Physics and Polymer Engineering, from 1986 until his “unofficial” retirement in 1994. He also served as consultant and scientific adviser to the Research Division of The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company from 1964 to 2002.

During his distinguished career, Gent published more than 200 papers and book chapters on the mechanical properties of rubber and plastics and edited a book titled “Engineering with Rubber.” A co-holder of two British patents and one U.S. patent, he frequently was invited to address universities, corporations and professional society meetings around the world. He served as a visiting professor at Queen Mary College at the University of London, McGill University and the University of Minnesota. Gent also presided over three national scientific societies (the High-Polymer Physics Division of the American Physical Society, the Society of Rheology, and the Adhesion Society) and chaired four Gordon Research Conferences dealing with elastomers, cellular materials, adhesion and composites. In 1991, he was elected to the National Academy of Engineering.

Respected and admired by his colleagues and students, Gent never lost the desire to contribute to his field, and he remained active with the University and the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering until his passing.

In honor of his international recognition and his service to The University of Akron, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to change the name of the Ohio Research Scholar Professor to the “Alan N. Gent Ohio Research Scholar Professor of Polymers.”

Honors and Awards

• Mobay Award, SPI’s Cellular Plastics Division (1964)
• Bingham Medal of the Society of Rheology (1975)
• Colwyn Medal of the Plastics and Rubber Institute (1978)
• American Society for Testing and Materials International, Adhesives Award (1979)
• Society of Plastic Engineers International Research Award (1980)
• 3M Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science for the Adhesion Society (1987)
• George Stafford Whitby Distinguished Teaching Award (1987)
• Charles Goodyear Medal of the Rubber Division/ACS (1990)
• Medal of the College de France (1990)
• High Polymer Physics Prize, American Physical Society (1996)
• NASA Public Service Medal (1988)
• Honorary degrees from Universite de Haute-Alsace, France (1997) and De Montfort University, U.K. (1998)
• Tan Sri Dr. B.C. Sekhar Gold Medal (2011)
• Inaugural Tire Technology International Lifetime Achievement Award (2012)
New Appointments

Dr. Coleen Pugh, professor of polymer science, was named interim chair of the Department of Polymer Science in November 2012. Pugh came to Akron in 1998 and has since made significant contributions, including bringing the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) program to the college in 2003. Her research is primarily focused on synthesis and characterization of novel polymeric materials, including amphiphilic organic nanoparticles, biomaterials, cyclic polymers, fluorinated polymers and liquid crystalline polymers, primarily using living chain polymerizations to produce polymers with a range of molecular architectures.

Dr. Bojie Wang, manager of the Microscopy Lab for the Institute of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, was named the assistant to the dean for student affairs in spring 2012. In this additional role, he oversees the 3+2 program with nine Chinese universities.

New Faculty Members

Dr. Yu Zhu comes to the Department of Polymer Science from Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he was a postdoctoral research associate. He received a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the University of Cologne in Cologne, Germany. Zhu’s research interests include controlled synthesis and assembly of nanomaterials for various applications and synthesis of conjugated polymers with a focus on the patterning of conjugated polymers in nano-scale for organic electronics.

Dr. Tianbo Liu comes to the Department of Polymer Science from Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pa., where he was an associate professor of chemistry. He received a Ph.D. in Chemistry at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Liu’s research interests include complex solution physical chemistry, polymer physics, colloid/surfactant chemistry, materials chemistry and biophysical chemistry.

Dr. Younjin Min, who has joined the Department of Polymer Engineering, comes from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where she was a postdoctoral research associate. She received a Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Min’s research interests include designing engineered materials for a right timing of delivery from Layer-by-Layer (LbL) assembly based on biomimetic materials, and the surface properties and interactions of nano- and biomaterials.

Departing Faculty Members

Paul Han
Retirement

Departing Staff Member

Anjalee Wagers
Office Assistant
Akron Global Polymer Academy

New On Staff

Jessica Smith
Administrative Secretary
Akron Polymer Training Center
Cheng Awarded 2013 APS Polymer Physics Prize

Dr. Stephen Z.D. Cheng, Robert C. Musson & Trustees Professor and dean of the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, is the 2013 recipient of the Polymer Physics Prize of the American Physical Society, the highest honor in physical polymer science in the United States and around the world.

The award citation reads:
“For pioneering contributions to the fundamental understanding of crystallization, metastability and phase transformations of semi-crystalline polymers.”

The APS Polymer Physics Prize is awarded annually to recognize outstanding accomplishment and excellence of contributions in polymer physics research. The selection is open to all scientists of all nations regardless of membership in the society or the geographical location in which the work was carried out. The prize consists of a monetary award and a certificate citing the contributions made by the recipient. Established in 1960, the Dow Chemical Company now serves as its chief supporter.

Dhinojwala Receives Whitby Award

Dr. Ali Dhinojwala, Morton Professor of Polymer Science, has been awarded the George Stafford Whitby Award for Distinguished Teaching and Research, sponsored by Cabot Corporation. Established in 1986 by the Rubber Division to honor the memory of George S. Whitty, head of the rubber laboratory at The University of Akron, the award is given to outstanding international teachers of chemistry and polymer science and recognizes innovative research.

Isayev Awarded Prestigious J.L. White Innovation Award

Dr. Avraam Isayev, distinguished professor of polymer engineering, received the 2012 James L. White Innovation Award of the Polymer Processing Society during the 28th international PPS conference in Pattaya, Thailand, held Dec. 11-15, 2012. The award is given in recognition of innovative development in the field of polymer processing technologies with recent commercial impact. It aims to recognize originality, innovation and creativity in the science and technology of processing polymers and polymeric products.
Karim Appointed to Important International Science Post

Dr. Alamgir Karim, a national expert in nanotechnology and Goodyear Chair Professor in the Department of Polymer Engineering, has been appointed as the Section Chair of the Physics Evaluation Group of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) for a one-year term, ending June 30, 2013. Karim’s role will involve coordinating the comprehensive evaluations and deliberations of the numerous proposals received by NSERC for soft matter and polymers. The international panel of experts will then meet in Ottawa, Canada, in February 2013 to choose the winning proposals.

Landis Named Fellow of MSA

Dr. William Landis, professor of polymer science and G. Stafford Whitby Chair in Polymer Science, has been named a fellow of the Microscopy Society of America (MSA). Elected by his peers, Landis will be recognized for his “outstanding research using microscopy and microanalysis to advance the knowledge of bone and cartilage development” at the 70th MSA annual meeting June 30, 2013, in Phoenix, Ariz.

Heinz Selected to Receive the 2013 Max Hey Medal

Dr. Hendrik Heinz, associate professor of polymer engineering, has been selected by the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain and Ireland to receive the 2013 Max Hey Medal. The award recognizes existing and ongoing research of excellence carried out by young workers within the fields of mineralogy, crystallography, petrology or geochemistry. The award was established in 1993 and is named in honor of the eminent British mineralogist Dr Max H. Hey (1904–1984).
Research Expenditures

Despite the state of the economy, and declines in federal funding, the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering has continued to thrive when it comes to faculty research funding. Since 2007, faculty research expenditures have grown by more than $6 million.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Research Expenditures</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2006/2007</td>
<td>$8,211,007</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007/2008</td>
<td>$7,826,901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>$9,347,178</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/2011</td>
<td>$11,259,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011/2012</td>
<td>$14,067,639</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student Enrollment

Due primarily to the addition of the 3+2 programs, the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering continues to see increases in enrollment. Since 2007, fall enrollment has almost doubled.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>249</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>301</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ALUMNI UPDATE

James Baker (Ph.D. 2011)  
Accepted a postdoctoral research fellowship at NASA Glenn Research Center in June 2012.

Erica Bennett (M.S. 1999)  
is a product line marketing manager for Functional Coatings at Dow Chemical Company in Philadelphia, Pa.

Sarang Bhawalkar (Ph.D. 2012)  
Began working as a products development scientist at the Designed and Engineered Solutions division at Avery Dennison in January 2012.

Randy Brown (M.S. 1980)  
is a research leader at Kydex in Hazleton, Pa.

Gary Burg (M.S. 1975)  
Was promoted to engineering fellow in the Global Engineering and Manufacturing Technology Department at Goodyear.

Darlene Hensley (M.S. 1992)  
Named the Akron Public Schools “Teacher of the Year 2012.”

Sarah Hiza (Ph.D. 2005)  
is the Navy technical programs director at ATK Aerospace and received the Technology Innovator Award from the Women Tech Council of Utah.

Collin Moore (Ph.D. 1998)  
is a principle scientist at Avery Dennison.

Kathy Perevosnik (M.S. 2008)  
is on the Next Generation Advisory Board for the Society of Plastics Engineers and serves on the board for the Philadelphia section.

Amy Randall (Ph.D. 2006)  
Was promoted to section manager of the Advanced Materials Group at Bridgestone in Akron. Along with husband Jason, Randall celebrated her daughter Paige’s first birthday in December 2012.

Mustafa Yasin Sen (Ph.D. 2009)  
Married fellow UA graduate Emilie Gautriaud (2006) in France on April 7, 2012.

Shanfeng Wang (Ph.D. 2003)  
Welcomed, with his wife, their second child, daughter Ann Jiaan Wang, on Dec. 24, 2012.

Lynn Yanyo (Ph.D. 1987)  
Was elected into the inaugural class of the Steel Valley Hall of Fame.

STUDENT AWARDS

Gary Leuty  
Kelley Fellowship, $1,500.

Frank N Kelley Award 2012, Gary Leuty  
DPS student, with former Dean Frank N. Kelley and Dr. Mesfin Tsige

Vasav Sahni  
Ticona Award, $500.

Joseph Scavuzzo  
Ohio Rubber Group Graduate Student Award, $3,000.

Denise Kotz, Dupont; Joel Neilson, Sid Richardson Carbon Company; Joseph Scavuzzo, Polymer Science student award recipient; Coleen Pugh, Dept. Chair Polymer Science; and Jonathan Karas, Dupont

Hao Sun  
Ticona Award, $500.

Erik Willett  
Maurice Morton Award, $1,000.

Ying Xu  
Ronald K. Eby Award, $500.

STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

ACS Meeting, San Diego, Calif.  
March 25-29, 2012  
Alejandra Alvarez  
Bill Storms  
Xinfie Y

Adhesion Society Meeting, New Orleans, La.  
Feb. 24-29, 2012  
Vasav Sahni

APS Meeting, Boston, Mass.  
Feb. 27-March 2, 2012  
Emmanuel Anim-Danso  
Chih-Hao Hsu  
Gary Leuty  
Yeneneh Yimer

SPIE Meeting, Baltimore, Md.  
April 23-27, 2012  
Rebecca Agapov

Total Student Enrollment as of Jan. 25, 2013

169 Full-Time  
12 Part-Time

Postgraduate  
118 Ph.D.  
63 M.S.

Citizenship  
36 U.S./P.R. Citizens  
145 Foreign

22 POLYMER SCIENCE ALUMNI/FACULTY/STUDENT NEWS & AWARDS
Total Student Enrollment as of Jan. 25, 2013

- 92 Full-Time
- 32 Part-Time

Postgraduate
- 174 Ph.D.
- 50 M.S.

Citizenship
- 37 U.S./P.R. Citizens
- 105 Foreign

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Charles Goodyear Medal
Dr. Russell A. Livigni

University of Akron alumnus Dr. Russell A. Livigni was named the 2013 Charles Goodyear Medal winner.

Established in 1941 to honor Goodyear’s discovery of the vulcanization of rubber, the medal is the most prestigious award given by the Rubber Division of the American Chemical Society. The award honors individuals for outstanding inventions, innovations, or developments that have resulted in a significant change or contribution to the nature of the rubber industry.

A native of Akron, Livigni earned both a B.S. in Chemistry and a Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry at UA. During his time at Akron he received the Merck Award for undergraduate chemistry majors, the Firestone Tire & Rubber Company Fellowship and the National Science Foundation Fellowship.

After working in the Scientific Laboratory at Ford Motor Co., Livigni joined GenCorp, where he remained for the rest of his career. In 1996, Livigni retired as the vice president of corporate technology at GenCorp. He is now a consultant in polymer and rubber chemistry and a member of the advisory boards of the Buchtel College of Arts and Sciences and Department of Chemistry at his alma mater.

Livigni holds 37 U.S. patents and has numerous technical publications. His awards include the Akron Council Engineering and Scientific Societies Distinguished Award of Council (1991), Melvin Mooney Distinguished Technology Award (1997), UA Alumni Honor Award (2002), Department of Polymer Science Outstanding Alumni Award (2002), and the Buchtel Award in Natural Sciences (2008).

ALUMNI UPDATE

Elif Alyamac (Ph.D. 2009)
Is research and development manager with Akdeniz Kimya in Izmir, Turkey.

Johanna Baena (Ph.D. 2006)
Is group leader for the Manufacturing Sustaining Engineering Group at Abbott Vascular in Murrieta, Calif.

In addition, Baena received two awards from Abbott Vascular: The 2011 Culture of Improvement Award for authoring a white paper on UV stabilization and degradation of polymers; and, the Q2 President’s Award for support Baena provided to the Puerto Rico and Costa Rica divisions on extrusion-related issues and projects.

Diya Bandyopadhyay (Ph.D. 2012)
Is a research scientist with BASF in Wyandotte, Mich.

Adam Beers (M.S. 1999)
Is product manager, Fabric Care, Latin American and Caribbean, with Electrolux Major Appliances in Miami, Fla.

Mikey Benes (M.S. 2002)
Along with wife, Grace, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Pavlina Kaya, on May 15, 2012. Benes is a research scientist with Baker Hughes in The Woodlands, Texas.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Degree/Award</th>
<th>Position/Company/Location</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vyacheslav Birman</td>
<td>Ph.D. 1999</td>
<td>Recognized for contributions to defense</td>
<td>Developed avionics for cascade Engineering in Grand Rapids, Mich.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Antonio Carrillo</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2008</td>
<td>Project scientist for Corporate Research</td>
<td>Works with Neenah, Wis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I-Ta Chang</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2012</td>
<td>Tech module developer with UTA College</td>
<td>Develops high purity EVA resin for photovoltaic encapsulant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pratyush Dayal</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2007</td>
<td>Assistant professor of chemical engineering</td>
<td>Works at the Indian Institute of Technology in Gandhinagar, India.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swati Deshpande</td>
<td>M.S. 2000</td>
<td>Failure analyst engineer with PNY Technologies</td>
<td>Works in Parsippany, N.J.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taner Dirama</td>
<td>M.S. 2002; Ph.D.</td>
<td>Research and development manager with</td>
<td>Works with PolyOne Corporation in Avon Lake, Ohio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yannan Duan</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2012</td>
<td>Senior research and development manager</td>
<td>Works with Nexans Electronics Cable in Elm City, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travis Getzie</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2012</td>
<td>Senior product development engineer</td>
<td>Works with Nexans Electronics Cable in Elm City, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunil Gowrishankar</td>
<td>M.S. 1999</td>
<td>Senior product development engineer</td>
<td>Works with Nexans Electronics Cable in Elm City, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunil Gowrishankar</td>
<td>M.S. 1999</td>
<td>Senior product development engineer</td>
<td>Works with Nexans Electronics Cable in Elm City, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sachin Jain</td>
<td>M.S. 2000</td>
<td>R&amp;T manager for DSM India</td>
<td>Works in Pune.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kshitij Jha</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2012</td>
<td>Postdoctoral position with Dr. Mesfin Tsige</td>
<td>Works in UA's Department of Polymer Science.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prashant Joshi</td>
<td>Ph.D. 1999</td>
<td>Staff fellow in the Center for Devices</td>
<td>Works with Lavalma Energy &amp; Fuels, Silver Spring.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumeet Kumar</td>
<td>M.S. 1998</td>
<td>Innovations in Water Soluble Delivery</td>
<td>Works with MonoSol, LLC, Portage, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumeet Kumar</td>
<td>M.S. 1998</td>
<td>Innovations in Water Soluble Delivery</td>
<td>Works with MonoSol, LLC, Portage, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Han</td>
<td>M.S. 1991; Ph.D. 1995</td>
<td>Relocated to The Woodlands, Texas, to accept a position</td>
<td>Works with Nexeo Solutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fang “Frank” He</td>
<td>M.S. 1997</td>
<td>Senior research associate at Clopay Plastic</td>
<td>Works in Mason, Ohio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kent Miller</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2012</td>
<td>Platform research scientist with Celanese</td>
<td>Works in Florence, Ky.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phani Nagaraj</td>
<td>M.S. 2003</td>
<td>Platform research scientist with Celanese</td>
<td>Works with Chemtura Corporation in Middlebury, Conn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emmanuel Pita</td>
<td>Ph.D. 2012</td>
<td>Senior scientist with the Lord Corporation</td>
<td>Works with Eri, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chaitanya Pratiwada</td>
<td>M.S. 2012</td>
<td>Technology Leadership Development Program</td>
<td>Works with Avery Dennison in Mentor, Ohio.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christopher Rottmayer</td>
<td>M.S. 2004</td>
<td>Process engineer with PolyOne Corporation</td>
<td>Works with PolyOne Corporation in Menlo Park, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Murthy Simhambhatla</td>
<td>M.S. 1990; Ph.D. 1994</td>
<td>President of Abbott Medical Optics and senior vice president of Abbott Laboratories</td>
<td>Works in Santa Ana, Calif.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dr. Jae Whan Cho**

**Pratyush Dayal** (Ph.D. 2007)

**Sergey and Evgenia Lapshin**

**Kalpesh Patel** (M.S. 1994)

**Emmanuel Pita** (Ph.D. 2012)

**Chaitanya Pratiwada** (M.S. 2012)

**Jason Randall** (Ph.D. 2010)

**Christopher Rottmayer** (M.S. 2004)

**Haifeng Shan** (Ph.D. 2006)

**Murthy Simhambhatla** (M.S. 1990; Ph.D. 1994)
Prabhu Soundarrajan (M.S. 2003)  
Joined RAE Systems, Inc., in San Jose, Calif., as global director of applications and solutions.

Michael Stadler (M.S. 2004)  
Promoted to research and development technical manager at CCL Label in Völkermarkt, Austria.

Rajesh Varma (M.S. 1997)  
Is director of market and technology development at Delphon Industries in Hayward, Calif.

Maurice Wadley (Ph.D. 2011)  
Is a materials engineering consultant with DuPont in Wilmington, Del.

Xiaojiang Wang (Ph.D. 2012)  
Accepted a postdoctoral position with Dr. Mark Soucek in UA’s Department of Polymer Engineering.

Xueyuan Wang (Ph.D. 2012)  
Is now an upstream research scientist at Tredgar Film Products in Richmond, Va.

Yingsheng “Ian” Xing (Ph.D. 2011)  
Accepted a position as senior development engineer with Schaeffler Technologies.

Yeo-O Youn (Ph.D. 2004)  
Is working in the Research and Development Center for LG Display in Paju, South Korea.

Weibin Zha (Ph.D. 2006)  
Is principal scientist with Halliburton in Houston, Texas.

Jianguo Zhou (Ph.D. 2007)  
Joined Chemtura Corporation in Morgantown, W. Va., as senior polymer engineer.

Xixian “Sean” Zhou (Ph.D. 1998)  
Is senior research and development manager with Loparex in Willowbrook, Ill.

Kushal Bahl  
Recipient of a Victor Montenyohi Scholarship for fall 2012, which is awarded to a doctoral student in rubber chemistry.

Mauricio Echeverri  
Selected as the polymer engineering student recipient of the 2012 Frank N. Kelley Graduate Student Award. Echeverri is completing a doctorate with Dr. Hendrik Heinz.

Fateme Emami  
Received a National Science Foundation fellowship to attend the Foundations of Molecular Modeling and Simulation 2012 conference in Mt. Hood, Ore., July 22-26. Emami is a doctoral student with Dr. Hendrik Heinz.

Willis Lecorchick  
Recipient of a John R. Mann Memorial Scholarship for fall 2012, which is awarded to a U.S. student who earned an undergraduate degree at UA and who intends to pursue graduate work in polymer engineering. Lecorchick is a first-year doctoral student with Dr. Kevin Cavicchi.

Sepideh Niknezha  
Awards an Excellence in Engineering Plastics Award from Ticona and $500. Niknezha is a doctoral student studying with Dr. Sadhan Jana.

Hadi Ramezani-Dakhel  
Awarded an Excellence in Engineering Plastics Award from Ticona and $500. Ramezani-Dakhel is a doctoral student with Dr. Hendrik Heinz.

Gurpreet Singh  
Was chosen as The University of Akron recipient of the 2012-13 Eastman Chemical Fellowship, which recognizes a student’s academic and research success. The fellowship will provide a $5,000 award to Singh and a trip with his adviser, Dr. Alamgir Karim, to visit the Eastman facility in Kingsport, Tenn., and give a presentation on their research.


Xiaochi Wang  
Won for her poster on “Mechanical and Electrical Properties of Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes/Syndiotactic Polystyrene Composite Aerogels” during the annual AIChE meeting in October 2012 in Pittsburgh, Pa. She will receive a year’s online subscription to Soft Matter. Wang is a doctoral student with Dr. Sadhan Jana.

Wang with her winning poster at AIChE
Join the Roo Crew

Alumni and friends are invited to stay engaged with The College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering and The University of Akron through The Roo Crew. As a member, you choose the role you want to play. From recruiting potential students, to serving as a guest speaker, to providing internships to UA students, your involvement is essential. To learn more and to sign up, log on to www.uakron.edu/roocrew.