



The University of Akron
**College of Polymer Science
and Polymer Engineering**

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Tell us about a talented student you want to see in the spotlight by emailing us at cpspe-alumni@uakron.edu.

Elizabeth Lewis is currently a doctoral candidate and a Graduate Research Assistant at The University of Akron. She has served as the president of the Polymer Engineering Student Organization (PESO) and currently has plans to pursue a career in a national laboratory after graduation. Read on to learn more about Elizabeth and her story as a student in CPSPE.

What have you learned that makes a difference to you?

Here at The University of Akron I have learned how to do research, from figuring out the desired end goal to planning out the experiments needed to get there.

During my prior internship, I was involved in research but everything I did was much more directed, with specific tasks assigned to me to complete. Here at Akron I needed to learn how to direct my own research, and how to problem solve when I run into the inevitable problems.

Why did you choose The University of Akron, specifically the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering?

I chose The University of Akron because I was impressed by the wide range of research being done here. Knowing that this college was well known and praised for polymer research helped me make my decision. When I visited the college I was impressed by the equipment available and the friendliness of the people. These all factored into my decision to attend UA.

Tell us about your experience in an internship or research project.

I had an internship in undergrad at Sandia National Labs. This internship taught me a lot about how research is done and it convinced me that I wanted to continue on to graduate school. While at Sandia I worked on several small projects related to microelectronic devices. I worked in a clean room and was able to see how small electronic chips were made. I was responsible for imaging devices after each processing step, characterizing a new 3D microscope, and measuring electrical resistance of select complete devices. I had a great mentor who pushed me to understand what I was doing and showed all the possibilities for a research engineer.

Who is your favorite professor (or staff person) and why?

I love working with John Fellenstein at his outreach events. I have always loved participating in and volunteering at science fairs, engineering clubs, etc. John has such fun activities to do, many of which were new to me when I first started helping him out. When you get to see a kid's face light up as they play with UV beads or the boric acid goop, you know they are having fun.

What are your plans after graduation?

After graduation, I would love to move back to California and work in an R&D lab at a national laboratory. Working at a national laboratory offers a lot of freedom in research direction and provides the opportunity for original ideas to be investigated.

