



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

# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

The College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering is proud of the intellectually rich experiential learning environment our faculty provide. Tell us about a faculty member that you want to see in the spotlight by emailing us at [cpspe-alumni@uakron.edu](mailto:cpspe-alumni@uakron.edu).

***Dr. Kevin Cavicchi** is the Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and an Associate Professor of Polymer Engineering. We recently had the pleasure of speaking with Dr. Cavicchi about his career at The University of Akron's College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. Read more about his life and career below.*

### **Tell us something about yourself:**

I have been the faculty advisor for The University of Akron ultimate Frisbee team since they started in 2010. My love of plastic began 24 years ago when I started playing during my freshman year of college. Now that my knees and shoulder don't work like they once did I don't get out on the field much anymore, but I'm still a great Kan Jam partner!

### **What were the driving factors in your decision to join the CPSPE faculty?**

I first started taking classes in polymers in undergrad and immersed myself in the field in graduate school. The chance to come to a place where there are experts in every aspect of polymer science and engineering was really exciting and makes this a great place to do research.

### **What's your teaching philosophy or your outlook on higher education?**

With any topic the primary goal is build up the students' fundamental knowledge of an area, but I really try to push them to develop their critical thinking. There is definitely a curator role that a teacher has to play with the overwhelming amounts of information out there. Since we never stop learning, if I can pass some of that on and make them better life-time learners I feel that I've succeeded.

### **What are some of your favorite things to do when you're not teaching?**

I hang out with my son a lot. I have been getting back into camping since he joined the Boy Scouts last year. My wife and I have always enjoyed going to baseball games, and we are about halfway to visiting every major league park in the country.

### **What do you love most about your job at The University of Akron, and your work through your particular department?**

I truly enjoy the opportunities afforded to me as a faculty member to pursue research in a variety of different directions. My colleagues have been invaluable in providing different perspectives and bouncing around ideas. The past seven years I have worked with high school teachers every summer and the challenge of translating research to the classroom has been a source of inspiration for new ideas.

### **What are your goals for CPSPE and your department?**

As Associate Dean I have done a lot of work building new degree programs to expand our offerings for undergraduate and graduate students. With all these programs in place I look forward to seeing them grow. Now that I am in my mid-career, I look forward to working with new faculty and continuing the high standard of excellence of the Polymer Engineering Department.

### **What is one thing that you hope each of your students learned from you?**

I always hope that I can instill in them the curiosity and drive to dive deep and find new problems to solve in polymer engineering.

