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.

Dr. Junpeng Wang is an Assistant Professor of Polymer Science. We recently had the pleasure of speaking with Dr. Wang about his new 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 was born and raised in a small town near Xi’an, China, where the Terracotta Army is located. I obtained my B.S. at the University of Science and Technology of China in 2010. After that I went to Duke University and obtained my Ph.D. in chemistry in 2015. After my Ph.D. studies, I worked as a postdoctoral scientist at the University of Chicago and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively, before joining the faculty of CPSPE at The University of Akron in January, 2019.

What were the driving factors in your decision to join the CPSPE faculty?
The premier polymer research facility, the collaborative research environment and the high-quality students were the main driving factors in my decision.

What’s your teaching philosophy or your outlook on higher education?
I envision my role as a teacher to be to ignite students’ interests in science so that they are eager to learn. This semester I am developing a new class “Physical Organic Chemistry in Materials Science”. In this class, I am not only covering basic principles in physical organic chemistry, but also trying to connect the principles with the frontier research progress in materials science. My goal is for the students to learn and practice by tasting the most exciting science, which could inspire their research.

What are some of your favorite things to do when you’re not teaching?
I enjoy hiking, reading and tasting different food.

What do you love most about your job at The University of Akron, and your work through your particular department?
I am most excited about spending time with students, including both teaching a class and mentoring my students, because we get high-quality, talented students. I also love to talk with my colleagues who have all aspects of knowledge in science and life.

What are your goals for CPSPE and your department?
I hope to help CPSPE continue recruiting high-quality students and prioritizing research. I will try to help the college to recruit the best students and work hard on research and funding applications.

What is one thing that you hope each of your students learned from you?
Excellence requires hard work and persistence. Things won’t always go your way, be patient and positive when they are not.