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

**Suresh Narute** is currently studying to earn his doctorate in Polymer Engineering under Dr. Thein Kyu. Read more about Suresh and his academic journey in CPSPE.

**How does your major fit into your life’s plan?**
When I was a summer intern, I realized working towards sustainability would make the world a safer place to live in for everyone. In order to work on sustainability, I should address issues related to the recycling of plastics and biobased materials. To be a researcher in this field, I require in-depth knowledge about polymers which motivated me to pursue Polymer Engineering as my major for graduate studies.

**What have you learned that makes a difference to you?**
I have learned multiple things throughout my graduate studies at The University of Akron. Being away from my family and living alone has taught me to be self-sufficient and manage my daily chores along with my academics effectively. In the academic setting, multiple research collaborations throughout the college have helped me to develop a broader perspective to analyze the problems faced during my research. Overall, the skill sets I have gathered until now have made me a good team worker and researcher.

**Why did you choose The University of Akron, specifically the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering?**
I heard about the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering when I was pursuing my bachelor’s degree. The University of Akron is renowned for its Polymer Program and well-acclaimed research. On reaching out to the then-current students at UA, I realized that the program structure, university environment and the expertise of well-established faculty, would help me in achieving my goal to become a successful Polymer Engineer.

**Tell us about your experience in an internship or research project.**
I have been working on an Industrial project as part of my thesis. Working on the Industrial project has been a great experience until now. The industrial projects are deadline and goals oriented. This has helped me a lot to improve my time management skills. Working on Industrial projects always keeps you on your toes and I am required to make quick decisions on multiple occasions. All these efforts are well appreciated by Industry counterparts, which boosts my confidence and helps me to work effectively. This project made me realize that inventions in laboratories can be done relatively easily, but its commercialization is difficult if its economics and feasibility are not taken into consideration.

**Who is your favorite professor or staff member and why?**
My favorite staff person in CPSPE is Jon Hawkins. He is always ready to help whenever approached. I have been behind him since day one, but he has always been there to troubleshoot and maintain all of the lab equipment.

**What are your plans after graduation?**
I plan to work as a product development engineer in the polymer industry to develop technologies useful for the betterment of society.