



STUDENT AWARDS

**School of Polymer Science and
Polymer Engineering**

Presented by:
Dr. Ali Dhinojwala

May 3, 2021

The
University
of Akron



2019 - 2020

DEAN STEPHEN Z. D. CHENG AWARD - POLYMER ENGINEERING RECIPIENT



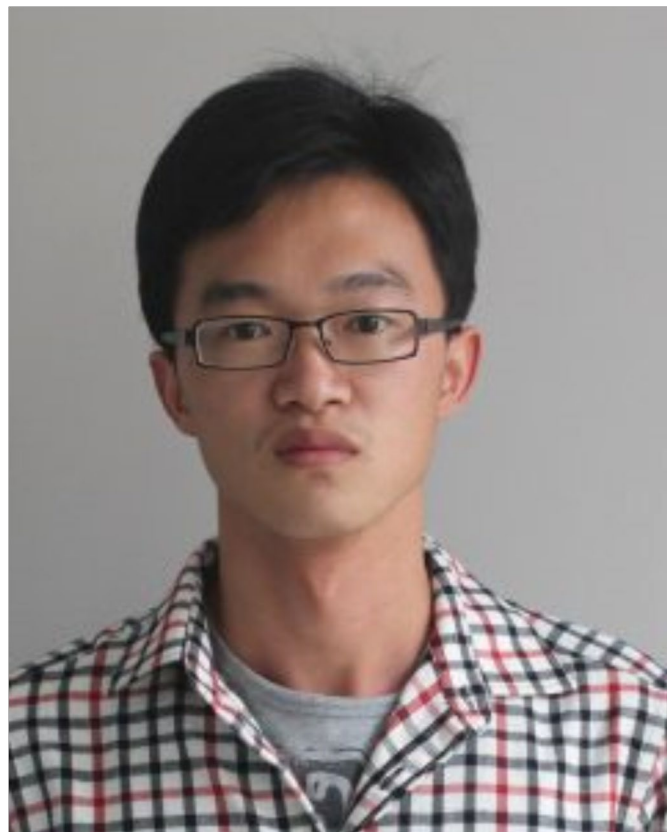
Tao Zhu

PhD 2020, Polymer Engineering

Advisor: Dr. Xiong Gong

Research: High Performance Photovoltaics
Based on Solution Processed Novel
Materials

DEAN STEPHEN Z. D. CHENG AWARD - POLYMER SCIENCE RECIPIENT



Jiancheng Luo

PhD 2020, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Tianbo Liu

Research: Controlling Self-Assembly of
Macroionic Solutions via Non- Covalent
Interactions: From Supramolecular
Structures to Self- Recognition

EASTMAN CHEMICAL COMPANY FELLOWSHIP

Masoud Razavi Aghjeh

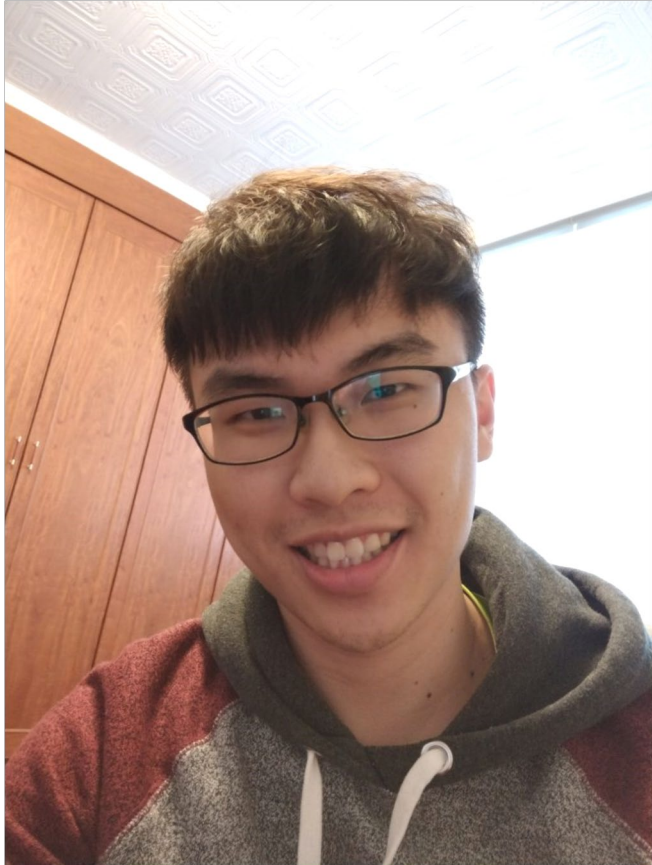
PhD 2020, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Shi-Qing Wang

Research: Molecular Mechanics of Glassy
and Semicrystalline Polymers



RONALD EBY AWARD



Tze-Gang Hsu

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Junpeng Wang

Research: A Polymer with “Locked”
Degradability: Superior Backbone Stability
and Accessible Degradability Enabled by
Mechanophore Installation

THE MARIA D. ELLUL AND JEFFREY L. SAIN ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP



Dillon Presto

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Mark Foster

Research: Microscale Mechanisms of Filler Reinforcement in Nanoparticle-Filled Rubbers Revealed with *in-situ* X-ray Photon Correlation Spectroscopy

THE MARIA D. ELLUL AND JEFFREY L. SAIN ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP



Nathan Schmitz

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Li Jia

Research: Unconventional Approaches to Rubber Modification: Reinforcement by Supramolecular Assembly, Crosslinking with Ionic Domains, and the Use of Thioaldehyde Intermediates for Grafting to Rubber During Mechanical Mixing

FRISCH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP



Dillon Presto

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Mark Foster

Research: Microscale Mechanisms of Filler Reinforcement in Nanoparticle-Filled Rubbers Revealed with *in-situ* X-ray Photon Correlation Spectroscopy

GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY FELLOWSHIP



Nathaniel Orndorf

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Ali Dhinojwala

Research: Chemical and Physical
Interactions at the Polymer/Ice Interface

GOODYEAR TIRE & RUBBER COMPANY FELLOWSHIP



Aarushi Srivastava

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Mark Foster

Research: Hairy Nanocrystals for
Elastomeric Reinforcement: Understanding
Structure and Dynamics Over Multiple
Length Scales

MAURICE MORTON AWARD



Travis Smith

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Shi-Qing Wang

Research: Molecular and Fracture
Mechanics of Glassy and Semicrystalline
Polymers

OHIO RUBBER GROUP GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD

Masoud Razavi Aghjeh

PhD 2020, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Shi-Qing Wang

Research: Molecular Mechanics of Glassy
and Semicrystalline Polymers





2020 - 2021

DEAN STEPHEN Z. D. CHENG AWARD - POLYMER ENGINEERING RECIPIENT



Joshua Seylar

PhD Student, Polymer Engineering

Advisor: Dr. Ruel McKenzie

Research: Helicene-Based Polymers and
the Physics of the Oxidative
Photocyclization of Di-aryl Alkenes

DEAN STEPHEN Z. D. CHENG AWARD - POLYMER SCIENCE RECIPIENT



Xinyu Sun

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Tianbo Liu

Research: The Control and Visualization of Intermolecular Interactions in Self-Assembly: From Star-Like and Dendron-Like Ionic Hybrid Macromolecules to Biomolecules

RONALD EBY AWARD



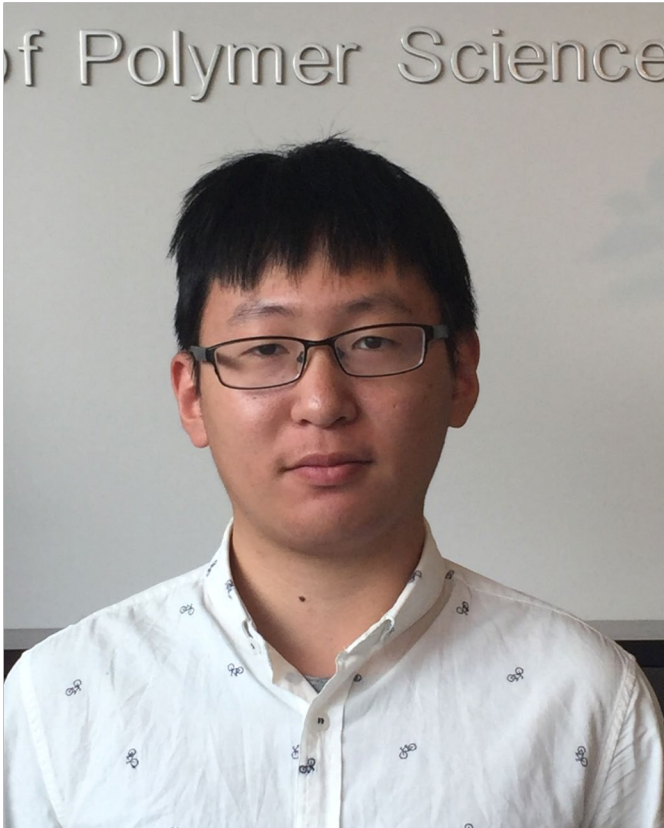
Stephen Riley

PhD Student, Polymer Engineering

Advisor: Dr. Erol Sancaktar

Research: Use of Pyrolyzed Biomass as a
Conductive Filler for Electrically Conductive
Polymers

THE MARIA D. ELLUL AND JEFFREY L. SAIN ENDOWED FELLOWSHIP



Linhui Zhu

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Li Jia

Research: Synthesis of Zwitterionic Nickel Catalysts for Carbonylative Polymerizations

FRISCH FAMILY AWARD



Nathan Schmitz

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Li Jia

Research: Unconventional Approaches to Rubber Modification: Reinforcement by Supramolecular Assembly, Crosslinking with Ionic Domains, and the Use of Thioaldehyde Intermediates for Grafting to Rubber During Mechanical Mixing

HANKOOK AWARD

Anvay Patil

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Ali Dhinojwala

Research: Exploring Melanin's Unique Optical Properties and Its Consequence on Functional Properties



HELM FELLOWSHIP



Yuqing Yang

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Tianbo Liu

Research: Self-Assembly Behaviors of
Macromolecules and Counterion-Macroion
Interactions

INDUSTRIAL EXCELLENCE AWARD SPONSORED BY DR. MANOJ AJBANI



Mario Echeverri

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Ali Dhinojwala

Research: Bioinspired Synthetic Melanin-Based Structural Colors and Thermally Responsive Nanocomposites

JAMES HARWOOD AWARD



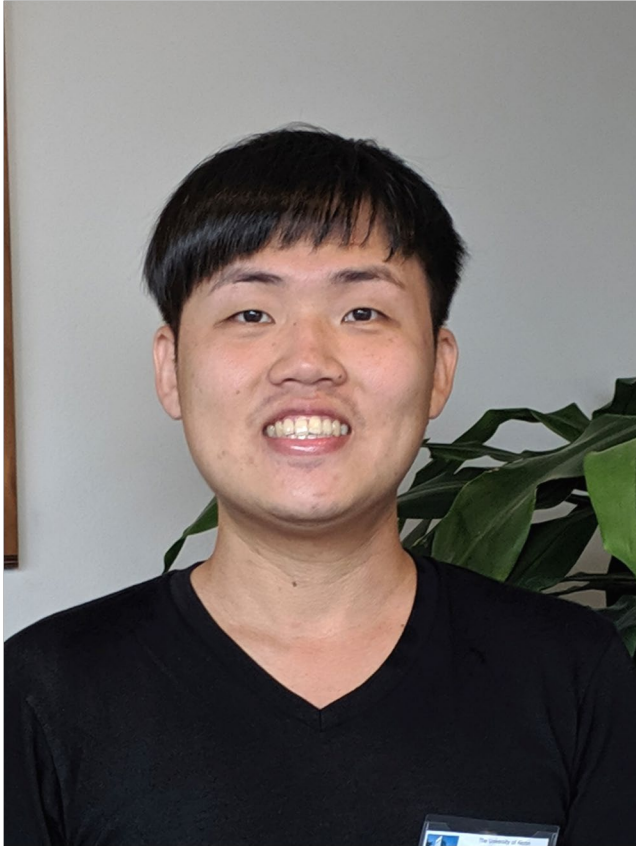
Mangaldeep Kundu

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Abraham Joy

Research: Importance of Molecular Interactions to Design Non-Ionic Coacervates for Drug Delivery Applications

MAURICE MORTON AWARD



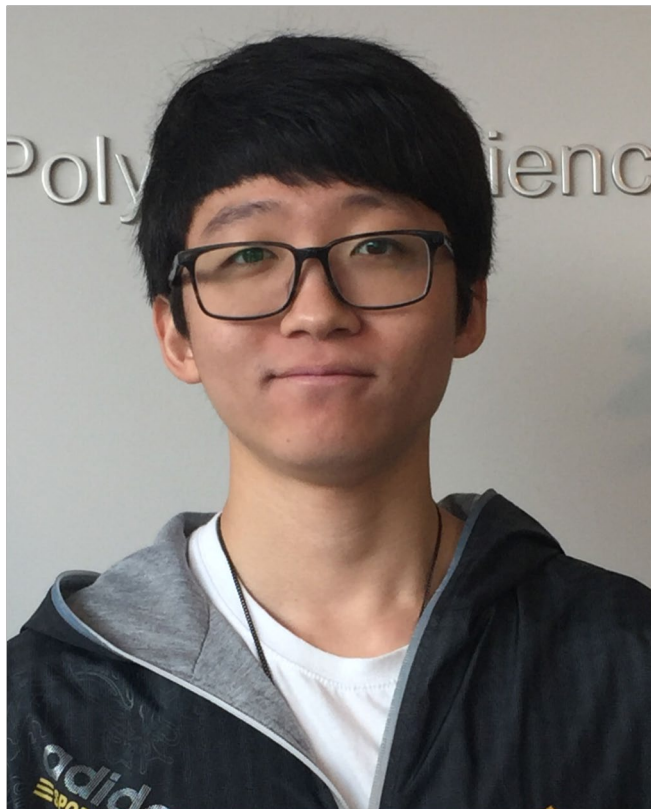
Yueh-Ting Lai

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Yu Zhu

Research: 3-D Printable Electrolyte/
Electrode for Lithium-Ion Battery
Manufacturing

VICTOR MONTENYOHL SCHOLARSHIP



Honghe Liang

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Li Jia

Research: Synthesis, Characterization, and Application of Catechol Coupling Agents for Silica-Reinforced Rubbers

OHIO RUBBER GROUP GRADUATE STUDENT AWARD



Kayla Williams-Pavlantos

PhD Student, Dept. of Chemistry

Advisor: Dr. Chrys Wesdemiotis

Research: Mass Spectrometry Imaging of
Macromolecules and Small Molecules on
Polymer Surfaces

QUIRK AWARD



Chung-Fu Cheng

PhD Student, Polymer Science

Advisor: Dr. Yu Zhu

Research: Nanoporous Materials for Energy Storage and Electrocatalysis

SPSPE POLYMER SCHOLARSHIP



Marcus Kozloff

Incoming PhD Student, Fall 2021

Polymer Science



SPSPE POLYMER SCHOLARSHIP



Rudolf Viereckl

Incoming PhD Student, Fall 2021

Polymer Science





CONGRATULATIONS STUDENTS!
