2018 POLY Election

Elections Open
Oct. 16 - Nov. 16

Vice Chair Candidates



Kevin Cavicchi
University of Akron



Andrea Kasko
UCLA

Member-At Large Candidates



Mark Grinstaff
Boston University



Kat Knauer
BASF

Councilor Candidates



Travis Baughman
DSM Engineering Plastics



Mary Ann Meador
NASA

Alternate Councilor Candidates



Frieder Jäkle
Rutgers University - Newark



Laura Stratton
Polymer Chemistry Innovations

VOTING ONLINE IS EASY AS 1-2-3!

1. **Watch for e-mail instructions from elections@vote-now.com**
2. **Go online to complete the election ballot.**
3. **If you do not receive an e-mail by October 20th contact kathyl@vt.edu**

OFFICER DUTIES

Vice-Chair: Serve as an active voting member of the POLY Executive Committee. Support the Chair and Executive Committee of the Division while acting as liaison for Division Committees. Become familiar with operations of the Division to prepare for the functions of Chair-Elect and Chair in succeeding years. Attend Executive Committee meetings and promote the interests of members, committees, and Executive Committee.

Member-At-Large: Serve as an active voting member of the POLY Executive Committee during a 3 year term. Functions as the principal communication link between membership and Executive Committee. Responsible for membership recruitment and retention activities. Seeks out new benefit options while monitoring ongoing services. Communicate with membership to keep them informed of Division opportunities. Coordinate membership committee meetings.

Councilor: Serve as an active voting member of the POLY Executive Committee during a 3 year term. Councilors represent the Division at an ACS level. Once elected, ACS assigns the Councilor an ACS committee(s) on which to serve. The Councilors attend POLY Executive Committee and ACS Council meeting, held during ACS National Meetings, to provide input to represent the Division. A Councilor provides helpful feedback to Division Officers and the membership in regard to ACS-level activities. A Councilor is typically a seasoned POLY Member or past officer who can represent the interests of the Division members at the ACS level.

Alternate Councilor: During a 3 year term, be available to replace or fill in if a Councilor is unable to fulfill their duties at a National ACS Meeting. Attend POLY Executive Committee meetings and provide the Councilor's report, if a Councilor is absent. Become informed on National and Divisional issues in order to serve as needed. Carry out specific assignments as requested by the POLY Division Chair, Councilors, or serve on committees as needed.

Candidates for Vice-Chair



Kevin Cavvicchi
University of Akron

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated as a candidate for Vice-Chair for the Division of Polymer Chemistry. I believe that the core strength of the Division is the dedication of its members earned from the excellent programming for, outreach to, and promotion of its members. This is complemented by the Division's willingness to continually innovate and adjust its practices to stay current in meeting its members' needs. I believe that my service to the Division as Chair of the Graduate Student Chapters from 2011-2015, Membership Chair from 2013-2015 and Member at Large from 2016-2019 shows my enthusiasm for serving the Division and has given me the experience needed to continue the tradition of solid leadership that has placed POLY at the forefront of the Polymer Science community. I am excited about the opportunity to delve into programming as Vice-Chair and take on a greater leadership role in the Division.

Biography:

Kevin Cavicchi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Polymer Engineering and the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs for the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering at the University of Akron. He grew up in Reading, MA and received a B.S. in Materials Science and Engineering in 1998 from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Minnesota in 2003. After a post-doctoral fellowship in the Department of Polymer Science and Engineering at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst he joined the Department of Polymer Engineering at the University of Akron in January 2006. His research group is broadly interested in nanostructured soft materials. This includes the synthesis and characterization of ionomers, shape memory polymer and actuators and small molecule organogelators. As Associate Dean he has spearheaded the development and implementation of two new Master degree programs and an undergraduate minor in Polymer Science and Engineering. In addition to his service with POLY he has served on the executive committees and boards for the Division of Polymer Materials Science and Engineering (PMSE), the Akron Chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), the Intersociety Polymer Education Council (IPEC), and the Cleveland Ultimate Disc Association (CDA).



Andrea Kasko
UCLA

Statement:

It is an honor to be nominated for Vice Chair. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve ACS, the POLY Division and the polymer community as a whole. As a member of POLY, I have participated in and benefitted from the excellent programming at national and regional meetings, workshops, webinars and other activities. As Vice-Chair, my mission is to continue these outstanding initiatives, to expand the reach of the POLY Division, and to promote inclusivity. As a polymer scientist who works at the interface of synthesis, materials, medicine and sustainability, I value the cutting-edge programming of the POLY Division, including symposia co-organized with other divisions. I hope to maintain and strengthen these collaborations with other divisions to develop new topics for symposia at local, regional and national meetings. I believe this will enhance our membership, through engagement of current members and recruitment of new members. I am also deeply committed to promoting inclusivity in science and engineering, and to recognizing excellence in research and service from the diverse community of scientists with backgrounds at all levels. The POLY Division has a history of outstanding leadership and member commitment, and I am excited for the opportunity to serve the Division. I hope that you will support me with your vote.

Biography:

Andrea M. Kasko graduated from the University of Michigan with a B.S. in Chemistry in 1997. In 1999, she obtained a M.S.E. in Macromolecular Science Engineering from Case Western Reserve University under the direction of Professor Virgil Percec (synthesis of kinetics of radical polymerization of dendritic monomers), and in 2004 she obtained a PhD in Polymer Science at the University of Akron working with Professor Coleen Pugh (synthesis and miscibility of liquid crystalline polymers with different architectures). After two years of post-doctoral research with Professor Kristi Anseth at the University of Colorado, Boulder (photodegradable biomaterials), Andrea joined the Bioengineering Department at UCLA, where she is currently an Associate Professor. In recognition of the creative nature of her work, Andrea received the NIH Director's New Innovator Award in 2011. The Kasko Lab focuses on the synthesis of new polymeric biomaterials, specifically in two areas: dynamically controllable biomaterials and biomimetic and bio-derived materials.

Candidates for Member-At-Large



Mark Grinstaff
Boston University

Statement:
I have been a member of ACS for over 30 years. I am honored to bring my experience as an educator, translational scientist, innovator and mentor to POLY Division as a member-at-large. Empowering students by providing financial support for training opportunities, as well as networking and professional development is key to our success. As someone who has started multiple companies and has helped his students start companies of their own, I appreciate the value of academia-industry partnerships in helping scientists translate their innovations into the market. Furthermore, I believe in the need to expand POLY Division's presence on social media, as means to grow its outreach with individual students and student groups, as a tool for recruitment and retention of members. I look forward to an opportunity to take a more active role in serving the POLY Division.

Biography:
Mark W. Grinstaff is the Inaugural Distinguished Professor of Translational Research and Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Chemistry, Materials Science and Engineering, and Medicine, and the Director of Boston University's Nanotechnology Innovation Center (BUnano). He received his A.B. from Occidental College in 1987, a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois in 1992 with Kenneth S. Suslick, and was an NIH postdoctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology with Harry B. Gray (1992-1996). His groundbreaking research has yielded more than 275 peer-reviewed publications, more than 200 patents and patent applications, more than 300 oral presentations, and seven new companies. His H index is in the 70's and his work has been cited more than 18,000 times. He has received numerous awards, including ACS Nobel Laureate Signature Award (1994), NSF Career Award (1999), Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences (1999), Camille Dreyfus Teacher-Scholar (2000), Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship (2000), the Edward M. Kennedy Award for Health Care Innovation (2008), Fellow of American Academy of Nanomedicine (2006), Fellow of American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (2010), Inventor of the Year, BU (2010), a Founding Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (2012), the inaugural BU Charles DeLisi Award and Lectureship (2015), Fellow of the Royal Chemical Society (2016), and Clemson Award for Applied Research from the Society for Biomaterials (2018). The translation of his pioneering discoveries in polymers and nanoscience to the clinic have helped millions of people.



Kat Knauer
BASF

Statement:
I have been privileged to serve our Division members on the POLY membership committee since 2016. As a member of this committee, I have strived to demonstrate the benefit of POLY membership and to generate interest in joining the Division. I was a co-organizer for the POLY/BASF professional networking event titled "Bridging the Gap: Connecting Industry and Academia in the Realm of Polymer Science" where I interacted with diverse scientists who embody the future of our Division. As the Member-At-Large for the POLY Division (2019) my goal is to continue to use my professional network to strengthen the interface between industry and academia in the field of polymer chemistry, increase POLY membership and retention by demonstrating value, and motivate POLY members to be more involved with the Division events and activities.

In cooperation with the exceptional staff in the POLY Business Office, I plan to work diligently to recruit and retain POLY membership. I believe this can be achieved by providing diverse topics and locations for POLY workshops, networking opportunities outside of the ACS national meetings, as well as a clear communication/outline of membership benefits to the polymer science community. Although I am young in career, I have built an extensive network both in academics and industry that I intend to use to build interest in POLY and to serve as a capable Member-At-Large to our current members.

Biography:
Dr. Kat Knauer is currently a senior scientist in the polymer additives group at BASF. Her work focuses on developing polymer stabilization chemistry with an emphasis on stabilizers for plastic recycling. She is also a technical representative on a global BASF scouting project exploring opportunities in the recycling/recyclability of ocean plastic waste. In 2016 she was selected for the BASF PhD Leadership Development Program in which she completed three technical rotations working with various polymer chemistries. Kat completed her B.S. in Chemical Engineering at Florida State University in 2011. In 2016 she earned a PhD from the University of Southern Mississippi under the advisement Dr. Sarah Morgan. She has been an ACS member for 7 years and a POLY Division member for 5 years. In her professional career, she continues to be an active POLY member and has served on the POLY membership committee for the past 2 years. Additionally, she serviced as a co-organizer for a POLY networking event and participated in several POLY sponsored symposia and career panels.

Candidates for Councilor



Travis Baughman
DSM Engineering Plastics

Statement:

I am honored to be a candidate for Councilor of POLY, and I look forward to the opportunity to continue my many years of service to the Division as a member of the Executive Committee. As Councilor, my mission will focus on returning tangible value to all members. From newer members to seasoned professionals, I hope to engage the Executive Committee to create and steer new initiatives with a modern value proposition that is strongly linked to the National ACS agenda. As an eclectic volunteer organization, this is not an easy task, but I plan to continue to devote my enthusiasm and drive to this effort recently illustrated in my service leading the Industrial Advisory Board (IAB) as Co-Chair (2010-2015) and now Chairman (2016- 2018). The IAB has allowed me involvement in many aspects of POLY's mission by supporting and engaging our entire membership and the Executive Committee to create and foster unique Division-wide initiatives. During my tenure, the IAB has supported undergraduate and graduate students in the form of travel grants and increased industrial interaction through discussion panels and networking events. Additionally, we have maintained our industrial focus by reviving the Industrial Polymer Scientist Award and inaugurating the Young Industrial Polymer Scientist Award during the 2017 ACS National Meeting in Washington, D.C. I hope that you will support me in this election.

Biography:

Travis Baughman graduated from Clemson University in 2001 with a B.Sc. in Polymer, Fiber & Textile Chemistry. He then moved to the University of Florida to join Prof. Ken Wagener's lab culminating in a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry in 2006 as a NASA Florida Space Grant Fellow. His thesis focused on olefin metathesis polymerizations applied as tools to create various precise and pseudo-random (co)polymer structures to further the understanding of structure-property relationships within this unique class of designer polyolefins. Dr. Baughman then moved to the Netherlands to join Prof. E. W. "Bert" Meijer's lab where he developed a class of supramolecular hydrogels designed as modular scaffolds for in vivo applications. As of 2008, he remained in the Netherlands where he started at DSM in the central research unit and has since moved from the lab to product development and into research & technology management for the Engineering Plastics Division. He recently relocated to California in a commercial role actively engaging the consumer electronics market. In March of 2016, Dr. Baughman was inducted as a Fellow of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry in recognition of his scientific achievements and long-term commitment to POLY.



Mary Ann Meador
NASA Glen Research Center

Statement:

I am honored to be nominated for Councilor, and would proudly serve another term representing POLY on the ACS Council and committees. I have been an active member of POLY for more than twenty years, and have co-organized numerous POLY-sponsored symposia and workshops. For the past six years, I have been a Councilor and served on the Divisional Activities Committee (DAC) which coordinates the activities of the technical divisions, and facilitates communications among divisions to help them better serve their membership. I also previously served as Alternate Councilor and Membership Chair for POLY for five years. As Membership Chair, I helped reinvigorate the POLY Student Chapters Program, and also carried out Member Surveys which have provided POLY leadership with tremendous feedback to inform and enhance decisions which affect us all. I have learned much from working with ACS and POLY leadership, including how to work within the ACS system, and through the network of ACS leaders I have developed, to get things done to advance the goals and objectives of our Division. If elected I will continue to apply that knowledge and work with POLY leadership to enhance programming, improve communications, and encourage new initiatives to improve the value of being a member. I will continue, as a member of DAC, to enhance communication and collaboration among related divisions and encourage joint activities which will expand POLY's reach. I will also continue to work with various committees within POLY to advance our strategic goals and POLY's mission to be the premier organization for professionals working in the polymer enterprise.

Biography:

Mary Ann Meador completed a B.S. in Chemistry from Duquesne University (1979) and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Michigan State University (1983). She joined NASA Glenn Research Center in 1983 and is currently a senior scientist in the Materials and Structures Division. Her research interests have focused on design and development of polymers for application in future aeronautics and space missions. Most recently, she has been developing polymer aerogels for application as insulation, and as low dielectric substrates for lightweight antennas. She has published over 180 papers and holds 23 patents. She is the recipient of the NorTech Innovation Award; three R&D 100 Awards; three NASA Medals; and was named ACS Fellow in 2013. She is also an Executive Editor for ACS Applied Materials and Interfaces, and Adjunct Professor in Polymer Engineering at the University of Akron.

Candidates for Alternate Councilor



Frieder Jäkle
Rutgers University - Newark

Statement:
It is a great honor to be nominated for the position of Alternate Councilor for the Division of Polymer Chemistry. Ever since first becoming a member of the ACS in 1999 I have enjoyed actively participating and contributing to this community. Over the years I have co-organized numerous symposia that were sponsored or co-sponsored by the POLY Division at ACS National, Regional, as well as Pacifichem Meetings. These symposia have covered diverse areas ranging from "Non-conventional building blocks in conjugated materials" to "Nano Structure and Function of Organic-Inorganic Hybrid Polymers", "Polymers for Sensory and Energy-Related Applications," and "Engineered Polymeric Materials". A common goal has been to bridge divides, to look for communalities and to engage members from different divisions in joint activities. I have also sought to bring together polymer scientists from different countries, for example, by organizing the recent US-Japan Hybrid Materials Workshop. In addition, I have participated in educational programing aimed at incorporating polymer science into the broader undergraduate curriculum and outreach activities by mentoring ACS project SEED students in my labs. As Alternate Councilor, I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the POLY Division with this view of bridging divides and working together. I am excited to support our POLY Councilors in representing POLY at the ACS level and to work with an amazing group of colleagues on the POLY Executive Committee.

Biography:
Frieder Jäkle is a Distinguished Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the Newark Campus of Rutgers University and the Co-director of the Polymer and Nanomaterials Characterization Facility (PolyRUN). He received his Diploma in 1994 and doctorate in 1997 from TU München, Germany. After a postdoctoral with Prof. Manners at the University of Toronto he joined Rutgers University in 2000. His research interests encompass conjugated hybrid materials for optoelectronic and sensor applications, stimuli-responsive and supramolecular polymers, and polyfunctional Lewis acids for sustainable catalysis. He co-authored over 150 journal publications and book chapters in these fields. He has also served on the editorial boards of several journals, including Macromolecules, ACS Macro Letters, and Organometallics. Frieder has been the recipient of an NSF CAREER award (2004), an Alfred P. Sloan fellowship (2006), a Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Award of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation (2009), the ACS Akron Section Award (2012), the Boron Americas Award (2012), and the Rutgers University Board of Trustees Award for Excellence in Research (2017).



Laura Stratton
Polymer Chemistry Innovations, Inc.

Statement:
I am humbled by the honor of being nominated to be a candidate for Alternate Councilor in the Division of Polymer Chemistry. Since joining POLY, I have felt welcomed in this vibrant Division dedicated to advancing polymer chemistry within the ACS and beyond.

Service and volunteering in big and small ways is a part of my life. Alternate Council is a support role, and is ultimately there to serve you, the POLY members. POLY already has great value, in the workshops, travel grants, networking opportunities, technical programing, and the professional development that it supports. As your Alternate Councilor I will advance this opportunity to serve you on assigned committees that forward inclusivity, polymer education, and find ways to highlight and increase POLY value to all members, in part by promoting collaborations and by reaching out to industrial polymer scientists who might not be aware of the benefits of POLY. I am especially excited about exploring paths to promote POLY at the local and regional level as well as increasing cross-divisional collaborations.

Biography:
Dr. Laura Stratton is currently the Director of Science and Technology for Polymer Chemistry Innovations, Inc. in Tucson, Arizona, where she runs a research-centered polymer chemistry lab. Laura has written or updated SOP's, training manuals, and confidential customer proposals, internal process audits and reports. Laura received her PhD in 2012 from The University of Arizona where her work focused on catalyst design. Laura earned her BA (chemistry) from Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Oregon in 2005 as a non-traditional student changing careers after a dozen years as an administrative assistant at law firms and volunteering with inner city at risk youth. Laura worked between undergraduate and graduate school for a year at the American Red Cross National Testing Laboratory in Portland, Oregon. Her current interests are in poly oxazolines and specialized poly methacrylates and their uses in various industries from thin films to medical devices.

Since joining the POLY Division in 2013, Laura has co-organized/co-chaired several symposia, joined the POLY IAB, and has contributed to POLY in other ways behind the scenes. Laura is Awards Chair of her local section and is General Chair of a 2021 Rocky Mountain Regional meeting, as well as Science Coach for a local school. Laura is a member of ACS since 2003 and is also a member of the American Ceramic Society.