

Morgan G. Barnes

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Polymers, liquid crystal elastomers, shape-shifting materials, covalent organic frameworks

EDUCATION

Rice University

Houston, TX

Ph.D., Materials Science and Nanoengineering

May 2016 - Spring 2021 (Expected)

- Advisor: Dr. Rafael Verduzco
- Dissertation (working title): "Designing anisotropic polymers: from shape shifting elastomers to strong two-dimensional films"

Duke University

Durham, NC

M.S. Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science

August 2013 - May 2015

- Advisor: Dr. Piotr Marszalek
- Thesis: "Self-assembled protein-based biomaterials with tailorable physical properties"

Baylor University

Waco, TX

B.S. Mechanical Engineering, Honors

August 2009 - May 2013

- Advisor: Dr. David Jack
- Honors Thesis: "Modeling and Predicting the Behavior of Viscoelastic Materials"

EXPERIENCE

ORAU Journeyman Fellow

Aberdeen, MD

Army Research Laboratory

February 2020 - December 2020

Working in the Weapons and Materials Research Directorate at ARL to synthesize 2D covalent organic framework films for high-strength high-toughness films

Graduate Research Assistant

Houston, TX

Rice University

June 2016 - Spring 2021 (Expected)

Working in the Materials Science and NanoEngineering department to develop multi-functional polymers including stimuli-responsive soft actuators and mechanically strong thin films

Research Technician

Houston, TX

Rice University

January 2016 - May 2016

Worked in the Bioengineering department operating a high resolution microendoscope in a clinical environment and developed data analysis protocols using Python

MRSEC Fellow

Durham, NC

Duke University

August 2013 - May 2015

Worked in the NSF Triangle Materials Research and Engineering center (MRSEC) using AFM force spectroscopy to investigate the crosslinking of click-coupled poly-protein gels

Undergraduate Honors Research Assistant

Waco, TX

Baylor University

August 2011 - May 2013

Worked in the Mechanical Engineering department determining the time-temperature viscoelastic properties of bulk polymers

TEACHING

MSNE 303: Junior Lab

Teaching Assistant

Organized, instructed and graded the labs for the departmental undergraduate junior lab

Houston, TX

Spring 2017, 2018, 2019

MSNE 555: Bio-Mimetic Strategies

Guest Lecturer

Guest lectured for the upper level bio-mimetics course covering soft shape-shifting materials and anti-fouling techniques

Houston, TX

Spring 2019

PUBLICATIONS

6. **M. Barnes**, S. Sajadi, S. Parekh, M. Rahman, P. Ajayan, R. Verduzco. *Reactive 4D Printing of Shape Programmable Liquid Crystal Elastomers*. Submitted. 2020.
5. S. Susarla, G. Chilkoor, Y. Cui, T. Arif, A. Puthirath, T. Tsafack, P. Sudeep, S. Castro-Pardo, **M. Barnes**, R. Verduzco, N. Koratkar, T. Filleter, G. Venkataramana, M. Rahman, P. Ajayan. *Corrosion Resistance of Sulfur-Selenium Alloy Coatings*. Submitted. 2019.
4. 1. S. Jung, Y. Cui, **M. Barnes**, C. Satam, S. Zhang, R. A. Chowdhury, A. Adumbumkulath, O. Sahin, C. Miller, S. M. Sajadi, L. M. Sassi, Y. Ji, M. R. Bennett, M. Yu, J. Friguglietti, F. A. Merchant, R. Verduzco, S. Roy, R. Vajtai, J. C. Meredith, J. P. Youngblood, N. Koratkar, M. M. Rahman, P. M. Ajayan, *Multifunctional Bio-Nanocomposite Coatings for Perishable Fruits*. Adv. Mater. 2020.
3. M. M. Rahman, A. B. Puthirath, A. Adumbumkulath, T. Tsafack, H. Robotjazi, **M. Barnes**, Z. Wang, S. Kommandur, S. Susarla, S. M. Sajadi, D. Salpekar, F. Yuan, G. Babu, K. Nomoto, S. Islam, R. Verduzco, S. K. Yee, H. G. Xing, P. M. Ajayan, *Fiber Reinforced Layered Dielectric Nanocomposite*. Adv. Funct. Mater. 2019.
2. **M. Barnes**, R. Verduzco. *Direct Shape Programming of Liquid Crystal Elastomers*. Soft Matter, 15 (870), 1–11, 2019.
1. B. Zhu, **M. Barnes**, H. Kim, M. Yuan, H. Ardebili, and R. Verduzco. *Molecular engineering of step-growth liquid crystal elastomers*. Sensors Actuators B Chem., vol. 244, pp. 433440, 2017.

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

American Chemical Society Spring Meeting

Contributed Talk, Cancelled due to COVID-19

Reactive 4D Printing of Mechanically Programmable Liquid Crystal Elastomer Actuators

Philadelphia, PA

March 2020

American Physical Society March Meeting

Contributed Talk, Cancelled due to COVID-19

4D Printing of Mechanically Programmable Shape-Shifting Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Denver, CO

March 2020

International Liquid Crystal Elastomer Conference

Contributed Talk

Reactive 3D-Printing of Liquid Crystal Elastomers for Non-Linear Actuation

Eindhoven, Netherlands

September 2019

American Physical Society March Meeting

Contributed Talk

Programming Complex and Arbitrary Shape Changes in Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Boston, MA

March 2019

Texas Soft Matter Meeting

Contributed Talk

Mechanically Programming Complex Reversible Shape Changes in Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Austin, TX

August 2018

Smalley-Curl Institute Summer Research Symposium*Selected Talk*

Flat Sheets to 3D Images and Back: Programming Shape-Shifting Elastomers into Flowers, Faces, and More

Houston, TX*August 2018***American Chemical Society National Meeting***Poster*

Exploring the uses of a two-stage thiol-acrylate reaction for liquid crystal elastomers

Washington DC*August 2017***Smalley-Curl Institute Transdisciplinary Symposium***Contributed Talk*

Extrusion-Aligned Liquid Crystal Elastomer Fibers

Houston, TX*February 2017***Texas Soft Matter Meeting***Contributed Talk*

Step-Growth Liquid Crystal Elastomers with Low Glass Transition Temperatures

Dallas, TX*August 2016***North Carolina State University Industry Symposium***Poster*

Self-Assembled Biomaterials Using Streptavidin and SpyTag-SpyCatcher

Raleigh, NC*February 2015***Duke University Frontiers Day***Poster*

Self-Assembled Protein-Based Soft Materials with Tailorable Viscoelastic Properties

Durham, NC*May 2014*

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2019 Soft Matter Outstanding Student Paper Award, Royal Society of Chemistry, 2020
- ORAU Journeyman Fellowship, Army Research Laboratory, 2020
- Best Student Lecturer award, International Liquid Crystal Elastomer Conference, Netherlands, 2019
- Future Faculty Fellowship, Rice University, 2019
- NSF Future Faculty Workshop Travel Award, Princeton University, 2019
- Best Presentation award, Smalley-Curl Institute Summer Research Symposium, Rice University, 2018
- Outstanding Teacher's Assistant Award, Rice University, 2018
- Best Presentation award, Smalley-Curl Institute Transdisciplinary Symposium, Rice University, 2016
- Triangle Materials Research Science and Engineering Center (MRSEC) Fellowship, 2013
- Outstanding Engineering Senior award, Baylor University, 2013
- Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges award, Baylor University, 2013
- Presidents Gold Scholarship, Baylor University, 2009-2013

LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

ARO High School and Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program*Mentor*

Mentored an undergraduate and high school student during the summer through the Army Research Office (ARO) Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program (URAP) and High School Apprenticeship Program (HSAP) grant to develop self-pumping microfluidic liquid crystal elastomer devices

Houston, TX*June - August 2019***NSF Nano in Schools***Guest Lecturer*

Was a guest lecturer at local high school chemistry classroom to expose students to graduate school, research, and shape-shifting materials

Houston, TX*January 2019*

NSF Research Education for Teachers (RET)**Houston, TX***Mentor**June - August 2018*

Mentored a high school teacher in a summer research project as part of the NSF Nanosystems Engineering Research Center for Nanotechnology-Enabled Water Treatment (NEWTE) RET program

CampSpark!**Houston, TX***Activity Leader**July 2017*

Designed and taught a hands-on introductory polymer lesson for CampSpark!, a week long research camp for local refugees hosted by Rice University

Scientific Research Design (SRD)**Houston, TX***Mentor**July 2016 - May 2017*

Mentored a local high school student in a research project for the school year as part of a SRD high school course

Rice's Institute of Biosciences and Bioengineering (IBB) Stem Engagement**Houston, TX***Mentor**July 2016*

Mentored a high school student from the Science Academy of South Texas for a week long research experience hosted by Rice's IBB

Baylor Capstone Engineering Courses**Waco, TX***Project Manager**January - December 2012*

Chosen by professors to act as project manager for two separate capstone Baylor engineering courses

Goodwill Adult Education**Waco, TX***Tutor**September 2010 - May 2013*

Volunteered regularly with the local *Goodwill's* ongoing education classes to prepare adults for the GED

KEY SKILLS

Matlab, Python, L^AT_EX, DMA, DSC, TGA, AFM Spectroscopy, NMR, GPC, XRD, organic synthesis, FTIR, rheology

ASSOCIATIONS

- American Chemical Society
- American Physical Society
- Pi Tau Sigma, National Mechanical Engineering Honors Society