

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 - Fall 2020 (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 Fellowship

Aberdeen, MD

Army Research Laboratory

January 2020 - August 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 - Fall 2020 (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 (Expected)

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 Research Assistant

Austin, TX

University of Texas

May 2012 - August 2012

Worked in the Geotechnical Engineering department studying the wetting and drying curves of soil and created data acquisition systems using LabVIEW

LEADERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

ARO High School and Undergraduate Apprenticeship Program

Houston, TX

Mentor

June - August 2019

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

NSF Nano in Schools

Houston, TX

Guest Lecturer

January 2019

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

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

TEACHING

MSNE 303: Junior Lab

Houston, TX

Teaching Assistant

Spring 2017, 2018, 2019

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

MSNE 555: Bio-Mimetic Strategies

Houston, TX

Guest Lecturer

Spring 2019

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

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. Jung, Y. Cui, **M. Barnes**, C. Satam, S. Zhang, R. Ahmed, O. Shahin, C. Miller, S. Sajadi, M. Bennett, R. Verduzco, M. Yu, F. Merchant, J. C. Meredith, J. Youngblood, M. Rahman, P. M. Ajayan. Multifunctional Bio-nanocomposite Coatings for Perishable Fruits. *Submitted*. 2019.
4. 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.
3. Rahman, M. M.; Puthirath, A. B.; Adumbumkulath, A.; Tsafack, T.; Robotjazi, H.; **Barnes, M.**; Wang, Z.; Kommandur, S.; Susarla, S.; Sajadi, S. M.; et al. Fiber Reinforced Layered Dielectric Nanocomposite. *Advanced Functional Materials*, 2019, 1900056.
2. **Barnes**, Verduzco. Direct Shape Programming of Liquid Crystal Elastomers. *Soft Matter*, 15 (870), 1–11, 2019.
1. B. Zhu, **M. G. 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

Philadelphia, PA

Contributed Talk, Cancelled due to COVID-19

March 2020

Reactive 4D Printing of Mechanically Programmable Liquid Crystal Elastomer Actuators

American Physical Society March Meeting

Denver, CO

Contributed Talk, Cancelled due to COVID-19

March 2020

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

International Liquid Crystal Elastomer Conference

Eindhoven, Netherlands

Contributed Talk

September 2019

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

American Physical Society March Meeting

Boston, MA

Contributed Talk

March 2019

Programming Complex and Arbitrary Shape Changes in Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Texas Soft Matter Meeting

Austin, TX

Contributed Talk

August 2018

Mechanically Programming Complex Reversible Shape Changes in Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Smalley-Curl Institute Summer Research Symposium

Houston, TX

Selected Talk

August 2018

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

American Chemical Society National Meeting

Washington DC

Poster

August 2017

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

Smalley-Curl Institute Transdisciplinary Symposium

Houston, TX

Contributed Talk

February 2017

Extrusion-Aligned Liquid Crystal Elastomer Fibers

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

- 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

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