

Morgan G. Barnes

2349 Albans Road, Houston TX, 77005

🌐 MGBarnes.com

✉ Morgan.Barnes@rice.edu

🐦 MGBarnes_

☎ 512-466-3421

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"

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Rice University

Houston, TX

Research Technician

January 2016 - May 2016

Worked under Dr. Rebecca Richards-Kortum operating a high resolution microendoscope in a clinical environment and performing data analysis using Python

University of Texas

Austin, TX

Undergraduate Research Assistant

May 2012 - August 2012

Worked under Dr. Jorge Zornberg in the Geotechnical Engineering department studying the wetting and drying curves of soil and creating data acquisition systems

LEADERSHIP AND OUTREACH

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 (NEWTEC) RET program

CampSpark!

Activity Leader

Houston, TX

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)

Mentor

Houston, TX

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

Mentor

Houston, TX

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

Project Manager

Waco, TX

January - December 2012

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

Goodwill Adult Education

Tutor

Waco, TX

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

Teaching Assistant

Houston, TX

Spring 2017, 2018, 2019

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

MSNE 555: Bio-Mimetic Strategies

Guest Lecturer

Houston, TX

Spring 2019

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

PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS

International Liquid Crystal Elastomer Conference

Contributed Talk

Eindhoven, Netherlands

September 2019

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

American Physical Society March Meeting

Contributed Talk

Boston, MA

March 2019

Programming Complex and Arbitrary Shape Changes in Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Texas Soft Matter Meeting

Contributed Talk

Austin, TX

August 2018

Mechanically Programming Complex Reversible Shape Changes in Liquid Crystal Elastomers

Smalley-Curl Institute Summer Research Symposium

Selected Talk

Houston, TX

August 2018

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

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

- Best Student Lecturer award, International Liquid Crystal Elastomer Conference, Eindhoven, 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

PUBLICATIONS

1. 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. *Adv. Funct. Mater.* 2019, 1900056.
2. **Barnes**, Verduzco. Direct Shape Programming of Liquid Crystal Elastomers. *Soft Matter*, 15 (870), 1–11, 2019.
3. 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.

ASSOCIATIONS

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