

## *Speaker Biographies*

### *William VanOoij*

Dr. William VanOoij is emeritus Professor at the University of Cincinnati, where he retired in 2008. He has a PhD in Chemical Engineering from the University of Delft in The Netherlands. Prior to joining the University of Cincinnati in 1993, he has held several industrial and academic positions both in Europe and the USA. His research interests are in rubber chemistry, corrosion and corrosion control, organofunctional silanes and time-of-flight SIMS. He has authored or co-authored over 350 scientific and technical papers and is inventor on 26 US and numerous foreign patents.

### *Lei Zhu*

Prof. Zhu received his B.S. degree in Materials Chemistry in 1993 and M.S. degree in Polymer Chemistry and Physics in 1996 from Fudan University. He received his Ph.D. degree in Polymer Science from University of Akron in 2000. After two-year post-doctoral experience at the Maurice Morton Institute, University of Akron, he joint Institute of Materials Science and Department of Chemical, Materials and Biomolecular Engineering at University of Connecticut, as an assistant professor. In 2007, he was promoted to associate professor with tenure. In 2009, he moved to Department of Macromolecular Science and Engineering at Case Western Reserve University as an Associate Professor. His research interests include polymer and organic-inorganic hybrid nanomaterials for high energy density capacitor applications, development of artificial antibody as nanomedicines, supramolecular self-assembly of discotic liquid crystals, and polyelectrolyte membrane fuel cells. He is recipient of NSF Career Award, 3M Non-tenured Faculty Award, DuPont Young Professor Award, Rogers Teaching Excellence Award, and Polymer Program Director's Award for Faculty Excellence. He is author and co-author of 62 refereed journal publications, 3 book chapters, and 33 conference proceedings.

### **Robert Mathers**

Robert Mathers graduated from North Carolina State University with a B.S. in chemistry in 1996. He worked for a year in industry as a chemist before entering graduate school at The University of Akron. Under the direction of Professor Quirk, Robert obtained a PhD in Polymer Science in 2002. He then spent two years as a postdoctoral researcher at Cornell University in the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology. Since 2004, Robert has been an assistant professor of chemistry at Pennsylvania State University, New Kensington. His research interests include utilizing renewable resources for polymer chemistry and fuel additives.

### **Hwi Joong Kim**

Dr. Hwi Joong Kim holds the position of Chief Technology Officer and Chief Production Officer for Hankook Tire Co., LTD. In these positions Dr. Kim has responsibility for all global engineering, technical, and manufacturing activities at Hankook which is the seventh largest global tire manufacturer. Hankook is a major supplier to North American, European and Asian OEM's and is also a key supplier to the aftermarkets on all continents. In addition to tires Hankook manufactures batteries, automotive products and manufacturing equipment.

Dr. H. J. Kim majored in applied chemistry at Seoul National University, Korea, 1971. He received his master's degree in polymer science in 1974 from the University of Akron and returned and received his Ph.D. in the same field under Dr. Alan Gent at the University of Akron in 1990.

Over the past 39 years, he has held various positions in manufacturing, research, development and engineering at Hankook Tire Co. Ltd. He organized tire research teams, expanded the development teams and guided overseas technical branches in USA (Akron, Ohio), Germany and China which currently have over 800 engineers, chemists and technicians. He has successfully led numerous projects in order to improve tire quality, design and manufacturing, production productivity and environments for plant workers and the neighbors. He is actively involved in the operations of not only Korean manufacturing plants, but also in China and Hungary. He allocates time for teaching and training engineering and polymer science to engineers, chemist and technicians. In addition, nine polymer and mechanical engineers have been financially supported to earn MS or Ph.D. at the University of Akron. Six among them are working for the company and one is coming back from Akron this fall.

Dr. Kim has made a great contribution to the growth of the Company over 39 years. When he joined the company, the daily production number of bias tires was a little more than one thousand in the Seoul plant, which was eventually closed and replaced by more modern facilities. Hankook now produces two hundred and twenty thousand top quality radial tires every day in the five plants. Additionally Hankook has become well-known for its highly-engineered products and leading-edge technologies. His great achievement has been based on his study at the University of Akron.

2009 Polymer Science Student Awards

**Eastman Chemical Co. Fellowship (\$5,000)**

Chien-Lung Wang

**Goodyear Fellowship (\$7,500)**

Andrew Heidenreich

**Kelley Fellowship (\$3,000)**

Wenbin Zhang

**Ronald Eby Graduate Student Award (\$1,000)**

Xuehui Dong

**Maurice Morton Graduate Student Award (\$1,000)**

Rebecca Agapov

**Ticona Award (\$500)**

Fall 2008 – Andrew Heidenreich

Spring 2009 – Kurt Chiang

**DPS Travel Awards (\$200)**

ACS meeting – Salt Lake City, UT – March 22-26, 2009

Camila Garces, Jon Janoski, Kurt Chiang, Andrew Heidenreich

**DPS Travel Awards(\$200)**

APS meeting – Pittsburgh, PA – March 16 – 20, 2009

Liehui Ge  
Vasav Sahni  
Anish Kurian  
Ping Yuan  
Sunny Sethi  
Carlos Barrios  
Somesh Peri

**Demming-Baker Scholarship- class of fall 2009**

Nishant Kumar - \$2,000  
Bradley Schmidt - \$3,000

**LANXESS Award** – hosted by LANXESS in Cologne, Germany to attend the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the invention of synthetic rubber.

Andrew Heidenreich

**59<sup>th</sup> meeting of Nobel Prize Winners in Chemistry at Lindau, Germany**

Elizabeth Foreman Orłowski

**APS Padden Award Symposium Finalist**

Sham Ravindranath

**Microbeam Analysis Society 2009 Distinguished Scholar Award**

Carlos Barrios

**University of Akron 2009 Outstanding Student Research Award (\$500)**

Sunny Sethi

**TBA**

**Lubrizol Fellowship (\$25,000)**

**Ohio Rubber Group(\$3,000)**

**2010 Excellence in Polymer Graduate Research Symposium**

Total Student Award – \$54,200