



## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES

SUNY POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

# YiR, THE ANNUAL “YEAR IN REVIEW” REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES



We are excited to share with you the “**Year in Review (YiR)**”; the annual report from the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS). With this YiR, we are celebrating one year since the founding of the SUNY Poly Office of Graduate Studies. In its first year, we have witnessed the formation of a team dedicated to the advancement of SUNY Poly by establishing clear guidelines related to the academic graduate tenure of our students, the initiation of programs that aim to strengthen open communication among graduate students and with the administration (through our monthly Chat & Chew!), offering professional development programs, and above all making sure that our graduate students were provided access to information they need to keep them on track while they go through their graduate tenure at SUNY Poly. With various academic services spread across the two campuses of SUNY Poly, providing effective and timely communication and connection has been a focus of OGS. Although not inclusive of all of our activities, the YiR is to highlight OGS accomplishments in the previous academic year, and to celebrate our students’ recent achievements.

### Newsletter Contents

- ◆ Student Scholarships
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- ◆ OGS Workshops and Programs
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- ◆ Student Research Presentations
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## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

**The John J. Sullivan Professional Development Award** was developed in honor and memory of Dr. Sullivan and through the gift of endowment he generously made to SUNY Poly's College of Nanoscale Science and Engineering. This award is bestowed to graduate students to further enable experiential and scholarly opportunities within nanotechnology or related fields during their studies.

Each of the recipients will use the award to present their PhD research project at conferences and/or participate in training on cutting-edge instrumentation at a National Lab. Upon the conclusion of their activities under this award, they will provide a presentation to the SUNY Poly community at an event to be announced. We look forward to hearing about all the exciting news that they will bring back.



John J. Sullivan Awardees: (From Left to Right): Atul Dhall, Yangzi (Isabel) Tian, Stephanie Curley, Madhulika Korde, and Emma Rocco.

**The Wendell Williams Scholarship** is awarded to incoming graduate students to further research experiences while enrolled in the Nanoscale Science or Nanoscale Engineering program at SUNY Poly. In exceptional cases, the award maybe given to undergraduate students. 2018-2019 recipients will be announced this fall.



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## INAUGURAL FACULTY SEED GRANT PROGRAM

In an effort to continue investing in the scholarly activity of our faculty members and foster a vibrant research community that attracts top students to the SUNY Poly campuses while enriching the surrounding communities, seven SUNY Poly faculty members have been awarded funding as part of the inaugural SUNY Poly Faculty Seed Grant Program. For additional information, please visit: [2018 Seed Grant Winners](#)



**Dr. Robert Brainard,**  
*College of Nanoscale Sciences*



**Dr. Lauren Endres,**  
*College of Arts & Sciences*



**Dr. Andrew Gallup,**  
*College of Arts & Sciences*



**Dr. Vincent Labella,**  
*College of Nanoscale Sciences*



**Dr. J. Andres Melendez,**  
*College of Nanoscale Sciences*



**Dr. Carolyn Rodak,**  
*College of Engineering*



**Dr. Yubing Xie,**  
*College of Nanoscale Sciences*





To supplement graduate student academic and professional growth, OGS initiated and collaborated with other colleges and institutions to offer a series of workshops and programs. These sessions included preparing applications to fellowships, career preparation, and writing skills. The following gives an overview of these offerings.

## **Writing Workshops**

The Writing Workshop series was co-hosted with Dr. Katy Evans (College of Arts & Sciences) and focused on enhancing students' technical writing skills. These sessions helped to ensure that students have the tools needed to communicate effectively. Examples of applicable writing applications discussed were: fellowship proposals, various technical writing, authoring papers, and successful research proposals.

## **Fellowship Workshops**

OGS fellowship workshops aim to prepare students for the first steps in fellowship, proposal, and technical writing. The workshops primarily focused on the NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP) and the NIH Ruth L Kirchstein Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Program. These sessions are offered to graduate and senior level undergraduate students that are actively engaged in research and were led by faculty members.

## **Lunch & Learn Series**

The Lunch & Learn series provide an informal opportunity for members of the SUNY Poly community to hear about the activities going on across campus. Topics range from departmental functions and policies to overall campus programs and opportunities. All SUNY Poly faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend.

## **Industry Information Sessions**

OGS hosted informational and interview sessions with several interested companies, through which several offers have been made to our students.

## **Chat & Chews**

The Office of Graduate Studies team hosted monthly informal lunches with graduate students to further open dialogue.

## **SUNY Poly Leads Series**

This series provided tools to enhance students' soft skills and leadership abilities. All undergraduate and graduate students were invited to attend. This series was co-hosted with the Director of Student Leadership, Megan Wyett-Lennon and sessions were led by staff members from various SUNY Poly units.



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## WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

### Fall 2017 Workshops

**September 5:** Fellowships 101 (Nicole Neu-Baker, Dr. Lauren Endres (NIH F32), & Dr. Karen O'Brien (NSF GRFP))

**September 7:** Writing Workshop: Getting Started: Purpose & Audience (Dr. Katy Evans)

**September 21:** Writing Workshop: Summarizing What Others Have Said & Responding (Dr. Katy Evans)

**October 5:** MACOM Information Session & Interviews

**October 6:** Fellowship Workshop #2 (Dr. Benoit Boivin & Dr. Shadi Shahedipour-Sandvik)

**October 19:** Writing Workshop: Style & Word Usage (Dr. Katy Evans )

**November 2:** Writing Workshop: Writing Metacommentary: How to Guide Your Reader (Dr. Katy Evans )

**November 15:** Chat and Chew Session

**December 15:** Chat and Chew Session

### Spring 2018 Workshops

**January 26:** TEL Informational Session & Interviews

**February 16:** Chat and Chew Session

**February 16:** Leadership Workshop: Priorities, Habits and Bullet Journaling (Jennifer Adams, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs)

**February 20:** Lunch & Learn: Sponsored Programs Administration (Kim Pietkiewicz, Assistant Vice President for Research Administration)

**February 22:** Chat and Chew Session

**March 13:** Lunch & Learn: Demystifying Entrepreneurship, Patents and Conflicts of Interest (Dr. Scott Tenenbaum, Associate Professor)

**March 16:** Leadership Workshop: Some Unexpected Ways Leaders Enable Success (Dr. Mike Manning, Assistant Provost)

**March 27:** Lunch & Learn: Broader Impact Plans (Elaine Garrett, Public Education & Outreach Coordinator)

**March 29:** Chat and Chew Session

**April 6:** Leadership Workshop: Professional Dress & Etiquette (Nathaalie Carey, Deputy Commissioner Administration & CFO, NYS Department of Labor)

**May 8:** Lunch & Learn: Technology Transfer Office (Ross Goodman, Assistant Vice President for Policy and Regulatory Affairs)

**May 25:** NSF Proposal Development Workshop (Dr. John Bay, Associate Dean for Research & Graduate Studies and Michael Jacobson, Research Development Specialist)

## Featured SUNY Poly Scholars

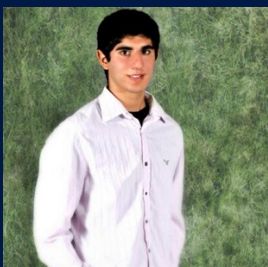
**Elias Zeina,**

**SUNY Poly MBA Program:**

As an MBA student and graduate assistant in the College of Business, Elias Zeina attributes his skillsets to the faculty and experiences gained while enrolled at Poly. Elias is working on qualitative data collection and analysis in hopes of applying these to local community improvements within Old Forge, New York.

**Annelis Sanchez, Ph.D. candidate, SUNY Poly Nanobio Program:**

Annelis Sanchez temporarily relocated to the Albany area following Hurricane Maria. Annelis' electrochemistry project is funded by an NIH-RISE fellowship while working under the direction of University of Puerto Rico's Professor Carlos Cabrera. Following the unexpected devastation and displacement, Annelis contacted Dr. Janet Paluh to request continuing her project at SUNY Poly. Poly faculty members have embraced the opportunity to informally collaborate with the University of Puerto Rico to enable Annelis to continue her work. Annelis'



research focuses on biosensors for early cancer detection and is expected to graduate in May 2019.

**George Sisting,**

**SUNY Poly Nursing Program:**

As a US Veteran and seasoned nurse working at Syracuse VA Medical Center, George Sisting's personal experiences bring a unique perspective to Poly's Nursing Education Master's Program. George served in the Military Reserves and thereafter as a computer teacher in New York City. Enrolling at Poly for grad school, George commends Dr. Bankert and Dr. Rourke for their leadership. George researched the mental health implications for combat veterans and now serves on the Veteran's Advisory Committee at the VA. Under Dr. Bankert's direction, George has gained grant writing experience along with evaluating operating room traffic and the risk for infection. George currently serves as an operating room nurse and is inspired to pursue VA opportunities as an Infection Control Nurse.. He attributes his professional growth to his experiences within the Nursing Education Program at SUNY Poly and indicates that he has been truly inspired by the faculty to "make a difference".



**Dr. Ekaterine Sanaia**

**Fulbright Scholar,**

**Nanoscale Engineering Program:**

Dr. Sanaia spent 6 months of her Scholarship period at Poly-CNSE to collaborate with Dr. Harry Efstathiadis researching superconductivity. Dr. Sanaia is the Deputy Director of Ilia Vekua Sukhumi Institute of Physics and Technology in Tbilisi, Republic of Georgia. The project evaluated microstructure characteristics of thin films prepared by varying methods. Dr. Sanaia aimed to reduce the electron resistance within electricity transmission cables. An example of an application of this research would be to improve MRI technology.

**Tell us your good news!**

Have you been recognized for something special? Have you published a new paper or presented at a conference? If so, we want to hear about it. Please send the details of your accomplishment to:

GraduateStudies@sunypoly.edu

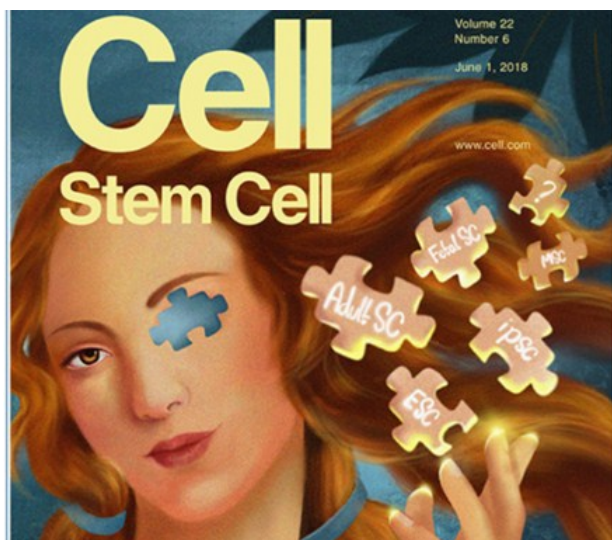




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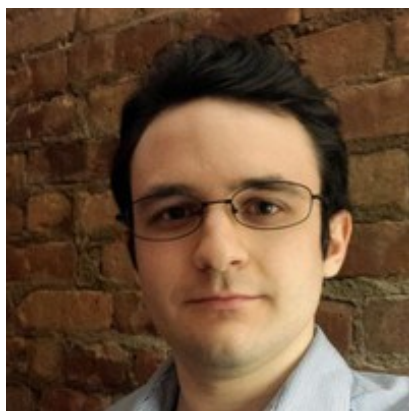
## STUDENT PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

Editor's Choice: A recent publication by **Zahiruddin Alamgir** (currently a Sr. Engineer—TD Research at GLOBALFOUNDRIES), a recent Alumni of CNSE, was selected as Editor's Choice in the spring issue of Journal of Semiconductor Science and Technology, titled: "The effect of different oxygen exchange layers on TaOx based RRAM devices". Zahiruddin's advisor was Prof. Cady.



The June 2018 issue of Cell Stem Cell included cover art by SUNY Poly Graduate Research Assistant **Isabel Tian**, who also worked on the research with Assoc. Professor of Nanobioscience, Dr. Yubing Xie. The article entitled "Regenerating Eye Tissues to Preserve and Restore Vision" can be found at the following link: [https://www.cell.com/cell-stem-cell/fulltext/S1934-5909\(18\)30231-5](https://www.cell.com/cell-stem-cell/fulltext/S1934-5909(18)30231-5).

PhD Student, **Steven Grzeskowiak** earned the SPIE Advanced Lithography 2017 *Hiroshi Ito Award*. The Ito Award is given annually in memory of Hiroshi Ito to the best student paper presented in the previous Patterning Materials conference. It is sponsored and donated by IBM at 1000\$. For 2017, the committee chose a paper by Steven and co-authors titled: "Reactivity of metal-oxalate EUV resists as a function of the central metal". Steven's advisor was Prof. Greg Denbeaux.



Editor's Choice: A recent publication by **Jonathan Marini** (currently at Goldman Sachs), a recent Alumni of CNSE, was selected as Editor Pick in the March issue of Journal of Applied Physics, titled: "Monte Carlo simulation of III-nitride photocathodes." Jon's advisor was Prof. Shahedipour-Sandvik.



## 2017

- Wilkie Olin-Ammentorp (Ph.D. student) presented research on neuromorphic engineering at the Oak Ridge Lab's Neuromorphic Computing Symposium.
- Post-doc and recent graduate, Dr. Karsten Beckman presented research at Oak Ridge on how resistive memory effects performance. The project involves the use of radar sensors and a camera.
- Matthew Hartog (Ph.D. student) presented research on how cigarette smoke is metabolized and the relationship to toxicity at the 21<sup>st</sup> North American ISSX Meeting.
- Atul Dhall (Ph.D. student) presented research on whether gravity relates to cancer cells at the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research (ASGSR).
- Jennifer Passage (Ph.D. student) presented research on Electromigration at the 2017 Compass Conference.
- Jack Rogers (Ph.D. student) presented "Nanoscale Visualization of Metal/Oxide/Si Interface Electrostatics with BEEM" at the 11th IEEE Nanotechnology Symposium.
- Natasha Tabassum (Ph.D. student) presented research on tailoring rare earth ion positioning and how properties change by nanostructuring at the Materials Research Society (MRS) meeting.
- Logan Butt (Ph.D. student) presented research on pioneering imaging via lung windows (5mm) and mammary windows (12mm) at the American Society of Cell Biology.
- Emma Rocco (Ph.D. student) presented "Investigation of Surface Treatments for Improved Quantum Efficiency in III-Nitride Photocathodes" at the 2017 Electronic Materials Conference.
- Isra Mahaboob (Ph.D. student) presented "Design and Bottom-Up Development of Stretchable Geometry AlGaIn/GaN High electron Mobility Transistors" at the 2017 Electronic Materials Conference.
- Atul Dhall (Ph.D. student) presented "A Microfluidics-based Approach to Study Cancer Cell Migration in Microgravity" at the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society for Gravitational and Space Research Conference.
- Emma Rocco (Ph.D. student) presented "Monte Carlo Simulation of III-Nitride Photocathodes" at the 2017 Electronic Materials Conference.
- Gourav Bhowmik (Ph.D. student) presented at the 2017 Hudson Mohawk American Vacuum Society Spring Meeting his research entitled "Optical Second Harmonic Generation Study of Process Dependent Morphological Evolution in Annealed Silver Nano-Island Films on Si (100)."
- Niaz Mahmud (Ph.D. student) presented "1/f Noise in a low-k Dielectric" at the 2017 Albany Nanotechnology Symposium.
- Westly Nolting (Ph.D. student) presented "Visualizing the Nanoscale Electrostatics of Metal/Si Interfaces with BEEM" at the 11th IEEE Nanotechnology Symposium.





- Jack Rogers (Ph.D. student) presented “Mapping Metal/Oxide/Si Interface Band Offsets with BEEM” at the 117th Topical Symposium of The New York State Section of The American Physical Society.
- Westly Nolting (Ph.D. student) presented “Visualizing Silicide Formation via Interface Electrostatics of Metal/Semiconductor Interfaces with BEEM” at the 117th Topical Symposium of The New York State Section of The American Physical Society, Schenectady, NY.

## 2018

- Suhel Inamdar (M.S. student) presented research entitled “Security analysis of Open Source NAC in Virtual Networks” at the sixth internal workshop on Network and System Management and Monitoring, IEEE AINA 2018 in Krakow, Poland.
- Steven Grzeskowiak (Ph.D. student) presented his research “Polymer Effects on PAG Acid Yield in EUV Resists” at SPIE Advanced Lithography 2018.
- Mohammad Archad Pulikkal (M.S. student) presented a poster on “Deception Technology: A Method to Reduce the Attack Exposure Time of a SCADA System” at SUNY Poly.
- Logan Butt (Ph.D. student) presented “Photoactuation: Novel MEMS-based Constructs and Applications of Azobenzene. Microfluidics, BioMEMS, and Medical Microsystems XVI” at SPIE Photonics West.
- Westly Nolting (Ph.D. student) presented “Nanoscale Visualization of Schottky Barrier Interfaces with Ballistic Electron Emission Microscopy” at the APS March Meeting in Los Angeles CA.
- John Freiburger (M.S. student) presented at STC Spectrum 2018 on interactive infographics.
- Katherine Dropiewski (Ph.D. student) presented a poster at SORMA XVII titled “Ultrafast Waveguiding Quantum Dot Scintillation Detector.”
- Emma Rocco (Ph.D. student) presented “Impact of Interface Properties in N-polar Heterostructure GaN Photocathodes” at the 2018 Electronics Materials Conference
- Isra Mahaboob (Ph.D. student) presented “Influence of Mask Material in Controlling the electrical Properties of Selective Area Epitaxially Grown AlGaIn-GaN Microstructures at the 2018 Electronic Materials Conference.
- Niaz Mahmud (Ph.D. student) presented “Comparative study of TDDDB models on BEOL interconnects in an advanced node ” at the 2017 Albany Nanotechnology Symposium.
- Jack Rogers (Ph.D. student) presented “Metal/oxide/Si Interface Electrostatics Visualization With Beam” at the 2018 Spring Meeting Hudson Mohawk AVS Chapter, General Electric Global Research Center, Niskayuna, NY, April, 2018.

# 2018 GRADUATE AWARDS

## Chancellor's Award for Student Excellence

### Kumari Regmi



This special award honors State University students who have received local, state, national or international recognition for excellence. Recipients include members of the USA Today College Academic Team, winners of major national scholarships and individuals recognized by national and international educational associations and honor societies. Regmi completed her M.S. in Family Nurse Practitioner.

## President's Award

### Lauren Sfakis



The President's Award is given to a graduating student who has a distinguished academic record, has demonstrated leadership to the college, the community or the discipline, and exhibits exceptional standards of moral character. Sfakis completed her Ph. D. in Nanoengineering.



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## 2018 GRADUATE AWARDS



**Management and Accounting  
Departments**

***Rachael L. Sandor***

Outstanding Graduate Student in Accountancy  
Award

***Lance R. Frasier***

Outstanding Graduate Student in Human Re-  
source Management Award

***Brandi L. Suffecool***

Outstanding Graduate Student in Finance  
Award

***Timothy M. Heimink***

Outstanding Graduate Student in Marketing  
Award

***Matthew C. Brundage***

Outstanding MBA Student in Technology Man-  
agement Award

**Communication and Humanities  
Department**

***Jane E. Loda***

Outstanding Graduate Student in Information  
Design and Technology Award

***James H. Ward***

Information Design & Technology Program  
Award

**Computer and Information Sciences  
Department**

***Ryan M. Quinn***

Outstanding Student in MS Program in Com-

puter and Information Sciences  
**Network and Computer Security  
Department**

***Pradnya Shankar Patil***

Outstanding Student in the MS Program in  
Telecommunications

***Mohammed Suhel Inamdar***

Outstanding Student in the MS Program in  
Network and Computer Security

**Nursing Department**

***Jamie Gibson***

Outstanding Nursing Education Graduate  
Student

***Terry J. Kallner***

Outstanding Nurse Practitioner Graduate  
Student

***Kristen N. Essig***

Melissa Saville Collver Memorial  
Scholarship

**Dean's Graduate Awards**

***David M. Dellecese***

College of Arts and Sciences

***Ross E. Hammond***

College of Business Management

***Benjamin B. Thomas***

College of Health Sciences





Krista with our Poly Alumni (and employees of GF) at a recent GF event.

## Strategic Partnerships

The Office of Graduate Studies has been in discussions with industry partners and been invited to participate in onsite events for their employees. We are excited to develop stronger relationships with our industry partners where SUNY Poly enjoys a strong alumni base.

## OFFICE OF GRADUATE STUDIES TEAM



(from left to right) Interim Founding Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies and Prof. of NanoEngineering, Shadi Sandvik; Assistant Dean, Krista Thompson; Strategic Programs Lead, Nakesha Abel, Ph.D.; Assistant to the Dean, Carmen Gero.

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