

Seminar: 11:10 am Friday, September 8
Science 1: Room 1002

Host: Luyi Sun

Distinguished Alumni Seminar

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Unexpected Challenges in the Life of a Polymer Scientist

Abstract:

Polymers, plastics, and composites have been integral to my professional life since I graduated from this prestigious university in 1989.

Every job I have held has allowed me to conduct basic and applied research, develop new products and new businesses, and advance technologies used to handle, transport, process, and measure the interaction of plastics with minerals, additives, fillers, and pigments. On a personal level, plastics have also allowed me to serve the community during my 12 years as a member of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE)'s Board of Directors and its President during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The purpose of this presentation is not to dwell on scientific or technical details (some will be addressed). I leave such opportunity to more qualified and capable colleagues and alumni who, no doubt, will provide you with great talks during this 'distinguished alumni' seminar series.

The objective of my presentation is to share with you some of the challenges and opportunities I faced as a polymer scientist and later as a manager during my professional career. I hope these experiences help students realize the broad spectrum of opportunities awaiting them while contributing some ideas about the future of polymer science.