# THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, KNOXVILLE

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL & BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING

# A Look Inside: CBE Graduate Programs



Established in 1838, the Tickle College of Engineering has a long tradition of commitment to excellence in scientific research and the training of engineering professionals. The college consists of seven departments of study, seven nationally renowned research centers, and more than 100 state-of-the-art laboratories.

## Rankings

Ranked 33rd (undergraduate) and 29th (graduate) among public colleges of engineering. *(U.S. News & World Report 2019).* 

## Enrollment

Undergraduate: 3,509 Master's: 381 Doctoral: 728 Total: 4,618

## **Quick Facts**

- 33% growth in PhD enrollment since 2012 —one of the fastest-growing PhD programs in the nation
- Three new buildings opened since 2012, with a fourth in the design phase (to open in 2021)
- 27,900+ alumni worldwide

## **CBE Admission Requirements**

Minimum standards: must have a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution and a 3.0 out of a possible 4.0 GPA. Satisfactory performance on the Graduate Record Exam(GRE) general test is also required for consideration for admission. Competitive applicants have GRE quantitative scores of approximately 160 or better and a combined score on the verbal and quantitative sections of 315 or better. Contact the department for specific additional application or program requirements.

International applicants whose native language is not English must submit TOEFL or IELTS test scores to be fully admitted.

## **Estimated Cost of Attentance**

Academic Year 2018–2019 Graduate In-State Student \$13,120 Graduate Out-of-State Student \$31,538 Engineering Fee (per semester hour) \$64 Additional special course fees may apply. onestop.utk.edu/tuition-detail



In order to meet global challenges in health care, the environment, renewable energy sources, national security, and economic prosperity, the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering has instituted innovative partnerships with nearby **Oak Ridge National Laboratory** (ORNL), local industry, and other disciplines at the University of Tennessee, such as medical, life, physical sciences, and business.

- BESC: DOE Bioenergy Solutions Center
- CEB: Center for Environmental Biotechnology
- Eastman Chemical Company
- ISSE: Institute for Secure & Sustainable Environment
- JIAM: Joint Institute for Advanced Materials
- JICS: Joint Institute for Computational Sciences
- Neutron Science Research at ORNL
- Oak Ridge National Laboratory
- SEERC: Sustainable Energy & Education Research Center

The National Institute for Computational Sciences (NICS) is one of the leading high-performance computing centers for excellence in the United States. NICS is co-located on the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, and ORNL campuses. The institute's mission is to expand the boundaries of human understanding while ensuring the United States' continued leadership in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

	Research Strengths										
	Micro & Nano Structured Materials			Biomolecular Engineering			Renewable Energy				
Faculty	Engineering of Soft Materials	Engineering of Functional Materials	Computational Material Science and Engineering	Computational Bioengineering and Biophysics	Molecular and Cellular Bioengineering and Nano- Biotechnology	Systems and Synthetic Biology	Biomass Based Products	Materials for Energy Applications	Energy Conversion and Storage		
Abel											
Boder											
Counce											
Dalhaimer											
Doxastakis											
Edwards											
Frymier											
Guo											
Kalyanaraman											

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Khomani											
Kilbey											
Laursen											
Paddison											
Ragauskas											
Sangoro											
Stein											
Trinh											
Zawodzinski											

## **Micro & Nano Structured Materials**



#### **Steven Abel**

Li, B, Abel, SM (2018). Shaping membrane vesicles by adsorption of a semiflexible polymer. *Soft Matter*, 14(2), 185–193. doi: 10.1039/c7sm01751k

## **Micro & Nano Structured Materials**



#### **Brian Edwards**

Sefiddashti, MHN, Edwards, BJ, Khomami, B. (2015). Individual chain dynamics of a polyethylene melt undergoing steady shear flow. *Journal of Rheology*, 59(1). doi: 10.1122/1.4903498

## **Micro & Nano Structured Materials**



#### Gila Stein

Kim, JS, Han, J, Kim, Y, Park, H, Coote, JP, Stein, GE, Kim, BJ. (2018). Domain Structures of Poly(3-dodecylthiophene)-Based Block Copolymers Depend on Regioregularity. *Macromolecules*, 51(11), 4077-4084. doi: 10./acs.macromal.8b00795

## **Micro & Nano Structured Materials**



## **Manolis Doxastakis**

Pandey, YN, Papakonstantopoulos, GJ, Doxastakis, M. (2013). Polymer/ Nanoparticle Interactions: Bridging the Gap. *Macromolecules* 46 (13) 5097-5106. doi: 10.1021/ma400444w

**Micro & Nano Structured Materials** 



#### **Manolis Doxastakis**

Pandey, YN, Doxastakis, M. (2012). Detailed atomistic Monte Carlo simulations of a polymer melt on a solid surface and around a nanoparticle. *Journal of Chemical Physics* 136(9) 094901. doi: 10.1063/1.3689316

# **Biomolecular Engineering**



March/April 2007 Volume 18, Number 2 http://pubs.acs.org/bc



#### **Eric Boder**

Parthasarathy, R, Subramanian, S, Boder, ET. (2007). Sortase A as a novel molecular "stapler" for sequence-specific protein conjugation. *Bioconjugate Chemistry*, 18(2), 496-476. doi: 10.1021/bc060339w

## **Renewable Energy**



#### **Arthur Ragauskas**

Hao, NJ, Lu, KY, Ben, HX, Adhikari, S, Lacerda, TB, Ragauskas, AJ. (2018). Effect of Autohydrolysis Pretreatment Conditions on Sugarcane Bagasse Structures and Product Distribution Resulting from Pyrolysis. *Energy Technology*, 6(4), 640-648. doi: 10.1002/ente.201700490

**Renewable Energy** 



## Bamin Khomami

Niroomand, H, Pamu, R, Mukherjee, D, Khomami, B. (2018). Microenvironment alterations enhance photocurrents from photosystem I confined in supported lipid bilayers. *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*, 6(26), 12281-12290. doi: 10.1039/c8ta00898a

## **Renewable Energy**



## **Stephen Paddison**

Bertasi, F, Herrige, C, Sepehr, F, Bogle, X, Pagot, G, Vezzu, K, Negro, E, Paddison SJ, Greenbaum, SG, Vittadello, M, DiNoto, V. (2015). A Key concept in Magnesium Secondary Battery Electrolytes. *Chemsuschem*, 8(18), 3069-3076. doi: 10.1002/cssc.201500339

## Faculty



Bamin Khomami

Head, Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering / Granger and Beaman Distinguished University Professor / Director, Sustainable Energy Education and Research Center PhD, University of Illinois

Structure Dynamics and Rheology of Complex Fluids Soft Matter

"Diversity of our research area provides us with a great opportunity to elucidate various fundamental physicochemical phenomena and translate them into rational design and engineering of advanced materials."



**Eric T. Boder** Career Development Associate Professor PhD, University of Illinois

Protein Engineering Applied Molecular Biology

"Our laboratory develops new tools to enable the redesign of natural protein machinery, focusing on proteins that undergo conformational regulation of activity (i.e., molecular switches). Such engineered proteins can be used as biosensors or developed as biotherapeutics."



**Brian J. Edwards** Professor, Associate Head PhD, University of Delaware

Nonequilibrium Thermodynamics

"My primary research focus is the theory of nonequilibrium thermodynamics, which I use to explore the boundaries between thermodynamics and fluid mechanics for complex flow systems such as polymeric melts and solutions, liquid crystals, and chemical delivery systems."



**Steven M. Abel** Assistant Professor PhD, Stanford University

Applies theoretical and computational methods to investigate fundamental problems in cell biology and immunology

"The Abel group investigates problems in cell biology, immunology, and soft biological materials using theoretical and computational methods. Specific interests include antigen recognition and immune cell activation, membrane and polymer biophysics, intracellular transport, and stochasticity in biochemical reaction networks."

## Faculty



**Robert M. (Pete) Counce** Professor PhD, University of Tennessee

Applying green engineering approaches to design and modification of industrial processes

"Our group focuses on chemical separations and processes associated with converting chemical and radiochemical waste materials into useful products. Recent research topics include producing useful products from waste biomaterials from ethanol production, recovering and purifying radioactive species for use in medical diagnose and treatment of disease, and recovering rare-earth elements from waste streams associated with phosphoric acid production."



**Manolis Doxastakis** Associate Professor PhD, University of Patras

Uses computational methods as applied to a broad spectrum of soft matter that covers polymer melts, blends, copolymers as well as lipid membranes and protein assemblies

"Our research employs multiscale computational methods to study a broad spectrum of soft materials, such as polymer melts, blends, copolymers as well as lipid membranes and protein assemblies. Our ultimate goal is to engineer macroscopic behavior by tuning molecular structure."



**Paul Dalhaimer** Associate Professor PhD, University of Pennsylvania



**Paul D. Frymier** Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs and Engagement, and Professor PhD, University of Virginia

The study of microbial fuel cells and biological systems based on algae and cyanobacterial photosynthetic and electron transport systems for the production of electricity and hydrogen

"In my lab, we work with proteins that change redox state when exposed to light. These proteins to power a series of redox reactions for applications such as sustainable energy capture or biological sensing."

Our laboratory is focused on two projects, 1) lipid droplet formation and distribution in eukaryotes, and 2) improving the efficacies of nanotechnologies for cancer treatment in patients with non-ideal metabolic conditions such as obesity

"Our laboratory focuses on cellular and organism-wide responses to fat imbalances. On the cellular level, we are interested in the formation, distribution, and breakdown of an organelle called a lipid droplet. Lipid droplets form from the endoplasmic reticulum when cells need to store fat. They are broken down when cells need energy or materials for phospholipids. On the organism-wide level we are interested in how obesity affects the efficacy of chemotherapy, especially chemo that is delivered via nanoparticles."

## Faculty



**John Zhanhu Guo** Associate Professor PhD, Louisiana State University

Fundamental studies behind the multifunctional nanocomposites for energy harvesting Environmental remediation Pollutants treatment and recycling Safety, sensing, and electromagnetic wave treatments (radiation) and applications (heating resources)

"To reach the goal of miniaturization and mulfunctions in devices and chemical units, Dr. Guo's Integrated Composites Laboratory (ICL) focuses on polymer, carbon, metal and ceramic nanocomposites with unique structures by designing, synthesizing, manufacturing and processing."



**S. Michael Kilbey II** Professor PhD, North Carolina State University

Assembly-structure-property relationships of polymer brushes made by self-assembly and by surface-initiated polymerizations Swelling behavior of stimuli-responsive polymer layers and dynamics of preferential adsorption of amphiphilic block copolymers

Surface behavior and characterization of conducting polymer thin films

"Research in the Kilbey group is focused on designstructure-property relationships of polymers in solution and their thin films. We practice modern methods of polymer synthesis and characterize structure and properties at the molecular level with a focus on responsive and optoelectronic polymers."



**Ramki Kalyanaraman** Professor PhD, North Carolina State University

Advanced functional materials. Solar energy Plasmonics & optics Nanomanufacturing

"Research in the group for nano and thin film science (GNATS) is focused on the betterment of humankind through a discovery-based approach focused on advanced materials and their cost-effective manufacturing for applications in nanotechnology, sustainability, electronics, and sensing."



**Siris O. Laursen** Assistant Professor PhD, University of Michigan

Directed design of catalytic materials The fundamentals of surface science The fundamentals of chemical reaction thermodynamics and kinetics of molecules and materials

"The Laursen lab studies materials, surface, and catalytic chemistry of non-noble metal ceramics and intermetallic compounds such that wholly new and inexpensive heterogeneous catalysis may be developed and optimized for an ever-changing industrial chemistry landscape. A full suite of experimental and quantum chemical modeling approaches enable these pursuits."

## Faculty



multiscale modeling paradigms

**Stephen J. Paddison** Gibson Endowed Chair in Engineering PhD, University of Calgary, Canada

Pursuing a fundamental molecular-level understanding of

transport in ion containing polymer through a variety of

"The Paddison group is interesting in elucidating structure/function relationships in ion containing

polymers through a broad range of computational

polymer electrolyte membranes, polymerized ionic

methodologies. Ion containing polymers (i.e. ionomers,

liquids) often feature as the central component in energy storage (batteries) and conversion (fuel cells) devices. Molecular-level understanding of how the chemical structure of these materials determines the transport of ions is pursued in the research of this group through connecting experimental and simulation results."



Joshua R. Sangoro Assistant Professor PhD, University of Leipzig, Germany

To understand the key structure-property relationships in different classes of soft materials and how to tune the different material properties for more efficient electrochemical energy applications

"The overarching goal of our research is to develop fundamental basis for rational design of novel safe, efficient, and environmentally benign electrolytes for current and future energy technologies."



**Arthur J. Ragauskas** UT-ORNL Governor's Chair for Biorefining PhD, University of Western Ontario

Biorefining Nanolignocellulosics Green Chemistry

"Our research program is directed at exploring the fundamental principles involved in biorefining bioresources to biofuels and bio-derived chemicals and materials. These studies utilize advances in biotechnology and thermal conversion approaches. At the core, students utilize the basics of chemical engineering as they apply to cellulose, hemicellulose and lignin with a special emphasis on green catalysis and biomass characterization."



**Gila E. Stein** Prados Associate Professor PhD, University of California, Santa Barbara

Design and characterization of functional polymer films

"Our research is focused on the design and characterization of functional polymer films. Our work can be applied to semiconductor device manufacturing, membranes, advanced coatings, and low-cost plastic electronics."

## Faculty



**Cong T. Trinh** Ferguson Faculty Fellow in Chemical Engineering PhD, University of Minnesota

One of his research thrusts is to develop the transformative technology, named MODCELL (Modular Cell), to engineer modular (chassis) cells for rapid development of novel microbial biocatalysts for industrial biotechnology. The other research thrust is to develop the transformative technology, named ViPaRe (Virulent Pathogen Resistance), to effectively combat rapidly evolving and resistant pathogens

"Trinh's research is focused on fundamentally understanding and harnessing complex cellular systems for industrial biocatalysis and disease prevention. To achieve the goal, we employ and develop various experimental and computational tools in interdisciplinary areas of systems and synthetic biology, metabolic engineering, and computational biology."



Matthew Mench

MABE Department Head Condra Chair of Excellence Professor Joint Faculty PhD, Pennsylvania State University

Electrochemical power conversion and storage including polymer electrolyte fuel cells, flow battery systems, and biological energy systems

Multi-phase transport visualization and characterization. Computational simulation of electrochemical power conversion and storage systems Electrochemical methods of hazardous waste conversion. Simulation of the influence of rapidly evolving socio-cultural factors on decision making and group opinion dynamics

"Dr. Mench's research interests span multi-phase transport phenomena, diagnostics, sensors, and electrochemical power conversion and storage systems such as fuel cells, electolyzers and flow batteries."



Thomas A. Zawodzinski UT-ORNL Governor's Chair for Electrical Energy Conversion and Storage PhD, SUNY/Buffalo

Electrolytes and composite electrodes for fuel cells Fundamentals of energy storage materials and systems Water management in fuel cells Application of NMR to chemical engineering problems

"Our group is concerned with understanding and engineering processes in electrochemical devices (batteries, fuel cells and reactors) and the materials that are used in them. We deploy a wide range of methods to study processes from the molecular to the device level. We have studied polymer, liquid and solid electrolytes, electrocatalysts and chemical conversions in detail, often using modeling or computation. Advanced NMR and electrochemistry are the bread and butter methods but we invent methods or synthesize materials as needed. We have also commercialized materials and devices via extensive industry interactions, licensing and spin-offs."



**Dibyendu Mukherjee** Assistant Professor Adjunct Faculty PhD, University of Minnesota

Nano-bio materials for energy, energetics and environment

"Research objectives for nbml-E3 lab center on experimental and theoretical investigations into the design, synthesis, assembly and structure-property characterizations of advanced nanomaterials and/or, their interactions and integrations with bio-inspired systems for sustainable energy, energetics and environmental applications."

## Joint Faculty (ORNL)



Kunlun Hong Associate Professor PhD, University of Alabama-Birmingham ORNL Center for Nanophase Materials Sciences





**Benjamin Lawrie** Assistant Professor PhD, Vanderbilt University ORNL Computational Sciences and Engineering Division

"Dr. Lawrie is an expert in quantum sensing with continuous variable entanglement. His recent research has centered on quantum-enhanced variations of ubiquitous sensors in which the noise floor falls below the standard quantum limit, enabling detection of signals that are otherwise buried in quantum noise."



Jared A. Johnson Assistant Professor PhD, University of Tennessee ORNL National Security and Nuclear Energy Team Nuclear Material Processing Group



Jagjit Nanda Professor PhD, Indian Institute of Science ORNL Materials Science & Technology Division

"The group I lead performs research anchored in understanding and improving chemical separation processes applied to radioactive materials. Our research includes the development of a process to produce 238Pu for NASA at ORNL, studies of advanced technologies for recycling used nuclear fuel, and creation of transuranic targets for super heavy element discovery."

"The research is directed to developing low cost Naion conducting membranes for high capacity nonaqueous redox flow batteries. We will use a combined experimental-modelling approach for tailoring the cation conductivity and minimize the cross-over of species under operating electrochemical conditions."



Oak Ridge National Laboratory

## **Equipment and Facilities**



#### Summit: ORNL's Latest Super Computer

Summit is the next leap in leadership-class computing systems for open science. With Summit, we will address, with greater complexity and higher fidelity, questions concerning who we are, our place on earth, and in our universe.

Summit delivers more than five times the computational performance of Titan's 18,688 nodes, using only 4,608 nodes. Like Titan, Summit has a hybrid architecture, and each node contains multiple IBM POWER9 CPUs and NVIDIA Volta GPUs all connected together with NVIDIA's high-speed NVLink. Each node has over half a terabyte of coherent memory (high bandwidth memory + DDR4) addressable by all CPUs and GPUs plus 800GB of non-volatile RAM that can be used as a burst buffer or as extended memory. To provide a high rate of I/O throughput, the nodes are connected in a non-blocking fattree using a dual-rail Mellanox EDR InfiniBand interconnect.

Summit will allow researchers in all fields of science unprecedented access to solving some of the world's most pressing challenges.

• Advanced Computing Facility (ACF) at JICS

The ACF comprises ACF-Newton and ACF-SIP (Secure Information Processing) to provide environments necessary to meet the computing needs of faculty working on either open or sensitive applications, or both. ACF-Newton combines the Beacon and Newton clusters, which offers a computing resource that supports serial and parallel computing, in the latter case with and without coprocessors, and most memory needs, including the need for terascale memory per node. ACF-Newton is coupled to a petascale, high-speed parallel file system to provide a balanced system offering high-performance computing along with fast data access and ample storage. ACF-SIP is a rapidly growing environment providing both computing and storage resources to process sensitive data. JICS staff support users across the critical spectrum of user assistance, operations, scientific computing, and education, outreach, and training.

- Ellipsometer
- Rheometer

- Modular Atomic Force and Scanning Probe Microscope
- Light Scattering



- Fluorescence-Activated Cell Sorter (Ctr for Env. Biotech)
- Fluorescence microscope
- Atomic force microscope (Adv. Microscopy and Imaging Facility)
- Bioreactors
- Anaerobic Chambers
- Liquid-handling robots
- High-performance liquid chromatography

## **Renewable Energy**



Optical Train

Rheometer

## **Advanced Degree Placement**

Upon completion of a doctoral or master's degree, CBE students are prepared to continue their research and foster careers in well-respect academic facilities or companies across the country and the world. A few graduates have even gone on to start their own companies.

#### **Postdoctoral Positions:**

- Stanford
- MIT
- US Naval Research Laboratory
- UC Berkeley
- Georgia Institute of Technology
- University of Pennsylvania
- Virginia Tech
- Mayo Clinic
- National Renewable Energy Laboratory

#### **Industry:**

- Eastman Chemical Company
- Proctor & Gamble
- Dow Chemical Company
- Corning Inc.,
- The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
- ORNL
- Johnson & Johnson
- Facebook

## **UT Sponsored Startups:**

- Celtig LLC
- Peroxygen Systems Inc.

## Academia:

- University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- Washington University
- University of Tennessee at Chattanooga



# Living in Knoxville, Tennessee

## The Heart of East Tennessee

Knoxville draws enthusiastic praise as a great place to live. Located in the heart of East Tennessee with the Great Smoky Mountains for a backyard, Knoxville offers the charm of a small Southern city with opportunities and activities that range from green energy initiatives to thriving culinary and music scenes. Citing both affordability and quality of life, U.S. News and World Report ranked Knoxville among the 100 best places to live in 2017.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, about an hour away, is home to more than 800 miles of maintained trails that are perfect for hiking and camping. Numerous rivers and lakes in the region provide easily accessible sites for fishing, kayaking, and tubing. Closer to home, Knoxville itself has more than 100 miles of greenway trails, some of which connect to our acclaimed Urban Wilderness—1,000 acres of parks, trails, and forests along Knoxville's south waterfront, less than a mile from downtown.

With its low cost of living and affordable real estate, Knoxville is a great place to put down roots. Housing options are suited to a wide variety of tastes, with downtown buildings, walkable historic neighborhoods, riverfront properties, suburban areas, and even country life within convenient commuting range. Both the L&N STEM Academy, a magnet school near campus, and Farragut High School are ranked among the best public high schools in the state.











DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICAL & **BIOMOLECULAR ENGINEERING** 

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