STEM Workforce Advisory Council

Dr. Shannon Weigum

Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology, Co-Director of the Center for Innovation + Entrepreneurship

Dr. Jennifer Irvin

Associate Professor, Dept. of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Co-Director of the Materials Application Research Center, Associate Director of the Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization Program

Dr. Hongchi Shi

Professor and Chair, Dept. of Computer Science

Dr. BJ Spencer

Assistant Professor of Practice, Dept. of Engineering Technology

Dr. Michelle Londa

Associate Professor of Practice, Cooperative Education Coordinator, Ingram School of Engineering

Dr. Young Ju Lee

Associate Professor, Dept. of Mathematics

Dr. Eddie Piner

Professor, Dept. of Physics

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TXST College of Science & Engineering Faculty Members

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Raju Ahmed, PhD, Photolithography Process Development Engineer - Micron Technology, Inc.

Alejandra Arriaga, Senior Support Engineer - HCL Technologies, Inc.

Kelly Braddock, Senior Research Associate II - Natera, Inc.

Daniel Campos, Senior Software Engineer – USAA

Laura Chapa, Solution Engineer - Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc.

Hailey Clem, Supply Chain Specialist - Celanese, Inc.

Meghan Gros, Senior Oncology Enterprise Product Manager - LabCorp, Inc.

Olivia Gamez Holzhaus, CEO & Founder - Rhodium Scientific, Inc.

Sean Jameson, Senior Vice President - VUV Analytics, Inc.

Damilola Runsewe, PhD, Polymer Materials Engineer - Corning, Inc.

David Sharp, Lab Manager - Visionary Fiber Technologies, Inc.

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Raju Ahmed, PhD
Photolithography Process Development Engineer
Micron Technology, Inc.

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Raju Ahmed is a Senior R&D Engineer at Micron Technology, Inc., in Boise, Idaho. He joined Micron after completing his PhD in materials science, engineering, and commercialization from Texas State University, San Marcos, Texas in 2018. Dr. Ahmed completed a BS and an MS in Applied Physics and Electronics from the University of Dhaka, Bangladesh in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

Prior to joining Micron, Dr. Ahmed worked as a doctoral research assistant from 2014 to 2018 for the TXST MSEC program under the supervision of Dr. Edwin Piner and Dr. Mark Holtz. During his US Army Research Office funded PhD research at Texas State University, Dr. Ahmed developed a novel method for direct metal organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD) of crystalline GaN on polycrystalline diamond.

Dr. Ahmed is the author of 15 peer reviewed journal publications, 5 US patents, and he has reviewed more than 35 papers for various peer reviewed journals. His current research interests include nonvolatile memory fabrication, 193 nm immersion photolithography, MOCVD growth of nitride semiconductors, thermal management of nitride semiconductors and CVD diamond.

Alejandra Arriaga
Senior Software Engineer
HCL

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Ale graduated from Texas State in 2014 with a B.S. in Computer Science. During her undergraduate years, she worked as a Summer Technology Analyst for Goldman Sachs, as a Technology Intern for the City of San Marcos, and as an Information Systems Summer Intern for The Dow Chemical Company.

After graduation, Ale joined IBM in Austin as a Software Engineer (2015-2019) and is currently a Senior Software Engineer with HCL's worldwide social product - HCL Connections.

Outside of work, Ale is currently caring for a 4-month-old baby girl.

Kelly Braddock
Senior Research Associate II
Natera, Inc.

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During Kelly's experience in an undergraduate research lab at Texas State, she became passionate about the technical side of laboratory work, including experimental design and troubleshooting. Kelly was able to build on those skills during graduate school, also at Texas State, where she completed her Masters in Biology in 2017.

Kelly's first job was working as a biologist at Paratus Diagnostics, a start-up company working to develop low-cost immunodiagnostics that can be administered at the point-of-care.

After 2.5 years, Kelly left Paratus and joined the research and development team at Natera, where she currently works as a senior research associate using NGS to provide individualized cancer diagnostics.

Daniel Campos
Senior Software Engineer
USAA

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Danny Campos is a Senior Software Engineer at USAA focused on improving the employee experience through services and automation.

Danny graduated from Texas State in 2013 with a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and a Minor in Computer Science.

Beyond work, Danny enjoys spending time with his wife Nancy, a 2012 Texas State alum, and their twin boys Matthew and Nicholas. He is also passionate about photography and sustaining native ecosystems.

Laura Chapa
Solution Engineer
Esri

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Laura Chapa earned a BS in Biology and a MS in Sustainability from Texas State University. She began her career performing environmental research at the Meadows Center for Water and the Environment at Texas State. She then joined Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) as a GIS Analyst in the Landscape Ecology Program, mapping floral and faunal species for habitat conservation.

In 2020, she joined Esri, a GIS mapping software company, as a Solution Engineer on their State and Local Government team based out of San Antonio, Texas.

Laura also teaches part-time at Austin Community College providing instruction in Environmental Science and GIS.

Hailey Clem
Supply Chain Specialist
Celanese, Inc.

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Hailey Clem is a Sample Coordinator Specialist within Celanese's Engineered Materials Department. Hailey graduated from Texas State University with a B.S. in Applied Mathematics in Spring 2017. Since then, she has developed a career within supply chain with experience in procurement, sourcing, and manufacturing planning. Hailey enjoys data and assisting on any project that comes her way.

Hailey resides in Dallas, TX with her husband and corgi, Chip. In her free time, Hailey enjoys reading a good book, heading to soul cycle, or looking for her next favorite food spot.

Megan Gros
Senior Product Manager
Labcorp

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Megan has a B.S. in Biochemistry from Texas State University and has worked in the healthcare diagnostics industry for nine years. She most recently joined Labcorp in 2022 as a Senior Product Manager on the Enterprise Oncology team.

Prior to Labcorp, Megan worked for Baylor Genetics. At Baylor Genetics, she experienced many roles within the business including quality management, business operations, and corporate strategy.

Megan currently resides in Houston, Texas. Some of Megan's favorite hobbies include travelling, spending time outdoors (except in the summer months), and tennis. She also loves to visit her nieces and nephews in North Carolina.

Olivia Gamez Holzhaus
Founder & CEO
Rhodium Scientific

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Olivia Gamez Holzhaus is the Founder and CEO of Rhodium Scientific, charged with advancing the company's biotech commercialization strategies terrestrially and within the low Earth orbit economy. Olivia oversees science, engineering, and QA strategies at Rhodium Scientific to ensure discoveries made in microgravity translate into products recognized by regulated consumer, manufacturing, and life science industries. Ms. Holzhaus has positioned her company as an official Commercial Services Provider to multiple national laboratories, including the International Space Station, and has led the creation and implementation of Rhodium Scientific's Quality, Industry-Compatible (QuIC) Space Process.

Currently, she is on the Board of Advisors for the Global Entrepreneurship Network-Space (GEN-Space), the International Space Safety Foundation (ISSF), and the College of Science and Engineering for Texas State University,

For fun, Olivia serves as Rear Commodore for Galveston Bay Cruising Association (GBCA), having competed in over 30 sailing regattas and is the defending class champion for the 2021 GBCA Women's Regatta.

Sean Jameson
Senior Vice President
VUV Analytics, Inc.

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Sean Jameson is Senior Vice President of VUV Analytics, Inc. VUV Analytics manufactures universal vacuum ultraviolet (VUV) spectroscopic detectors that provide a new dimension of chemical analysis accuracy.

Sean has more than 25 years of metrology experience, specializing in optical and x-ray based technologies used for material characterization, yield engineering, and process diagnostics.

He has held positions of CEO and VP of Sales at Metrosol, VP of Sales and Marketing at Jordan Valley Semiconductor and other technical and management positions at KLA-Tencor, Tencor Instruments, Prometrix Corp., and SEMATECH.

Sean received his B.S. degree in Physics from Texas State University.

Damilola Runsewe, PhD
Polymer Materials Engineer
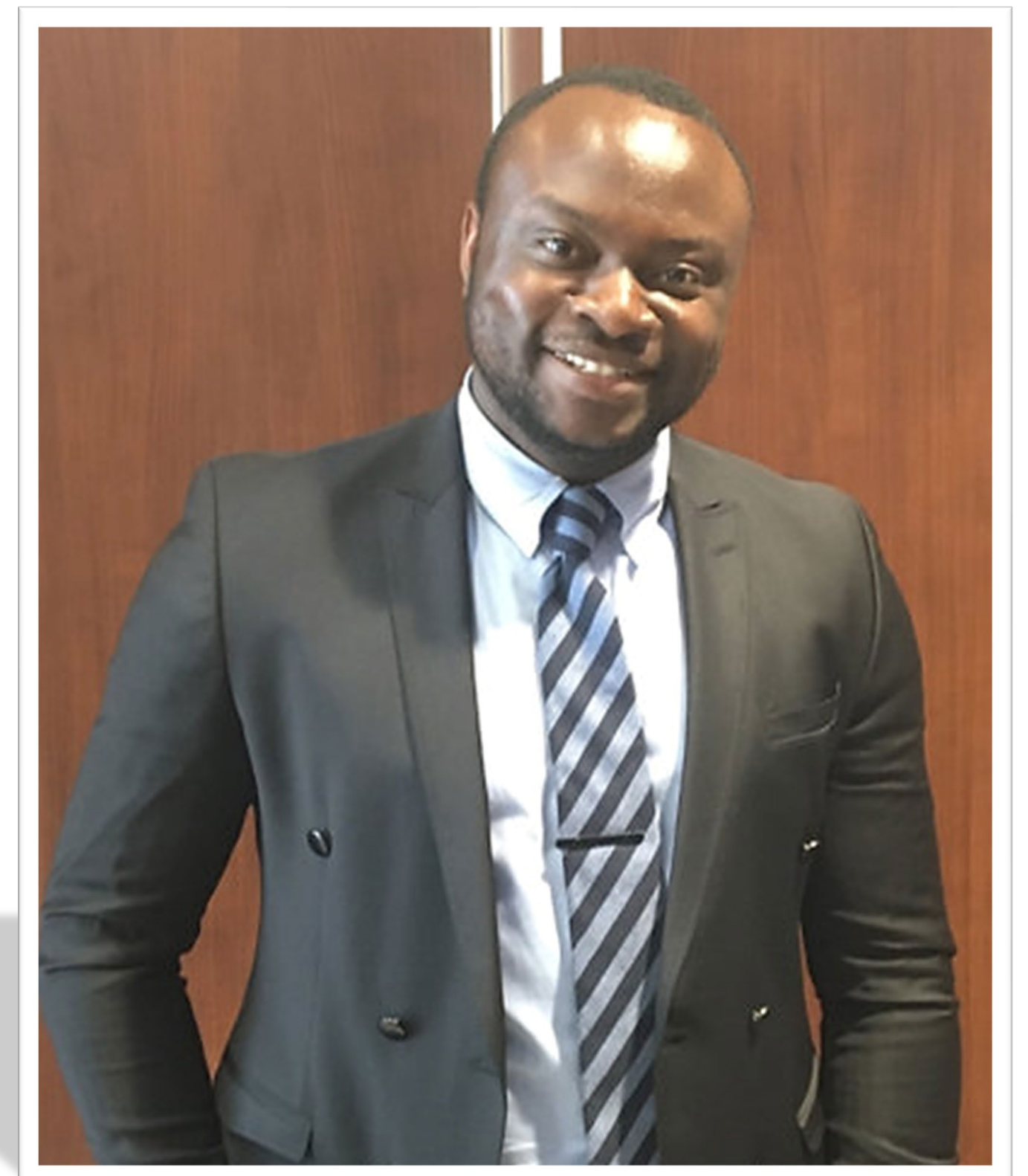**Corning, Inc.**

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Damilola Runsewe received his Ph.D. in Materials Science, Engineering, and Commercialization at Texas State University in 2021. He has a Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Chemical Engineering from Lamar University (2017).

Dami is currently working as a Polymer Materials Engineer at Corning, Inc., in Corning, NY. He has expertise in polymer chemistry, physics, and engineering and, as an engineering professional, he has worked in different capacities to provide solutions to some of the challenging problems faced by clients and customers.

During his years at Texas State University, Dami served as a doctoral assistant at NSF Innovation - Corps (I-CORPs) where he worked on product development and general growth strategy as well as facilitating mentorship and networking events for early-stage, pre-investment startups.

David Sharp
Lab Manager
Visionary Fiber Technologies, Inc.

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David Sharp is the lab manager at Visionary Fiber Technologies, Inc., an engineering startup focused on liquid-liquid extraction utilizing fiber film reactor technology. As the lab manager, David coordinates efforts between the senior scientists, chemists, and engineers to facilitate projects from inception on the bench to industrial scaleup in refining facilities worldwide. Thus far, they have applications in the renewable energy space, food processing, and metal refining. Prior to his position as lab manager, David was a Chemist III where he worked on several projects that have seen commercial success.

David graduated from Texas State University in Spring 2020 with a degree in Biochemistry where he did research at four different research institutions, CU Boulder (Synthesis, Conducting Polymers), LSU (Frontal Polymerization), Star Park (startup incubation hub, San Marcos, Aerogels, Blueshift Materials Inc.), and Texas State University (Synthesis, Conducting Polymers).

In his spare time, David rock climbs and scuba dives. He is an assistant scuba diving instructor helping teach both beginning and intermediate divers how to scuba dive with an emphasis on protecting marine life and the environment.