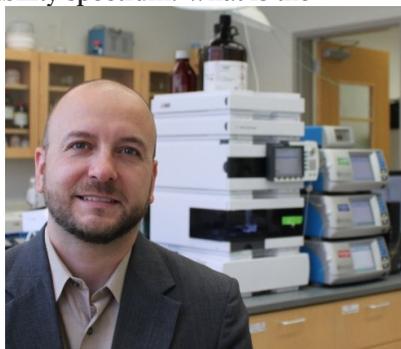




The Plastics Age: The Good, The Bad, and the Future

by **Dr. Justin G. Kennemur, Ph.D.** Department of Chemistry & Biochemistry, Florida State University

Plastics have become some of the most beneficial and also controversial class of materials over the last century. They have become so embedded in our daily life that they go almost unnoticed. That is, until they begin piling up. This talk will not be aimed at demonizing plastics; they are marvels of modern science and serve many benefits in society. However, we cannot ignore the growing problem of plastic over-usage, waste, and pollution. This discussion will take a deeper look into the world of polymers, which is a broad term that encompasses plastics, rubbers, proteins, cellulose, DNA, and many other forms of large molecules. I have dedicated nearly 15 years towards higher education about polymers. When I see a plastic bottle lying next to a piece of wood, I see many molecular similarities. However, most would describe these two materials as complete opposite sides of the sustainability spectrum. What is the difference? and can frontier research in polymers usher in new plastics that are more environmentally benign? I look forward to an open discussion about the challenges ahead and also to sharing my opinion on exciting developments that polymer scientists are working towards.



Thursday May 16, 2019

7 - 8 pm FSUCML Auditorium

Free & Open to the Public
Refreshments Available Before
Lecture

Speaker Bio:

Justin G. Kennemur graduated from Radford University, VA (B.S. Chemistry, 2002) then worked in industry for three years at Polymer Solutions Incorporated in Blacksburg, VA as an Analytical Polymer Chemist. He received a Ph.D. in Polymer Chemistry at North Carolina State University in 2010 under the advisement of Professor Bruce M. Novak. After a post-doctoral appointment at the University of Minnesota co-advised by Professors Marc A. Hillmyer and Frank S. Bates, he began his independent career in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Florida State University in August of 2014. As a principle investigator, he has received an ACS-PRF Doctoral New Investigator Award (2015), the NSF CAREER Award (2018) and was awarded as a 2018 ACS PMSE Young Investigator. He is also particularly proud of receiving the 2017-2018 Florida State University Undergraduate Teaching Award, a student driven award, for his efforts in organic chemistry instruction.



The Florida State University Coastal & Marine Laboratory

3618 Coastal Highway 98 | St Teresa, FL 32358

Phone: 850.697.4120 | Email: fsucml@fsu.edu

www.marinelab.fsu.edu

