BASF Representative: Dr. Allyson Costa

Position: Account Manager, Chemical Intermediates

Location: Florham Park, NJ

Biographical Summary:
Dr. Allyson Costa is an Account Manager in BASF’s Chemical Intermediates Division in Florham Park, NJ. Allyson studied at the International University of Bremen, Germany and the College of Wooster, Ohio, earning an ACS certified chemistry diploma in 2005. In 2011 she obtained a Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Purdue University where her research – under the direction of Dr. Paul Shepson – focused on the coupling between the carbon and nitrogen cycles in a forested environment. Specifically, she modeled isoprene photo-oxidation, isolated canopy nitrogen chemistry indicators, and quantified the atmospheric contribution of nitrogen to the forest floor. After completing her Ph.D., Allyson joined BASF as part of their professional development program. Rotating through multiple sites, she gained experience in the personal care and petrochemical industries while working in R&D, Applications Development and Technical Sales. In early 2013 she became responsible for BASF’s Connecting the Dots® program – a unique business-to-business outreach program designed to strengthen BASF’s relationship with key strategic customers – as part of BASF’s Market & Customer Development group. At the start of 2016 she transitioned to her current role in the chemical intermediates group as an account manager where she is responsible for the Northeast territory and over $30 Million in Sales.

BASF Representative: Dr. Artrease Benoit

Position: Associate Special Project Coordinator

Location: Iselin, NJ

Biographical Summary:
Dr. Artrease Benoit is an Associate Special Project Coordinator at BASF in Iselin, NJ. As a Research & Development (R&D) Project Coordinator, Artrease serves as staff to the Senior Vice President of Catalyst R&D. Artrease joined BASF as a part of the PhD Professional Development Program. She did rotations in Wyandotte, MI with care chemicals, Shanghai, China with procurement, and Iselin, NJ with technical sales for refinery catalysis. She began working at BASF after receiving her Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from Florida State University under the advisement of Nobel Laureate Sir Harold Kroto, researching self-healing materials. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry from Spelman College and M.S. in Chemistry from Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to BASF Artrease worked as a packaging engineer for Heinz in Pittsburgh, PA.
BASF Representative: Dr. Steven Gaik

Position: Technical Service Specialist

Location: Southfield, MI

Biographical Summary:
Dr. Steven Gaik is a Technical Specialist for BASF’s water-borne pressure sensitive adhesives business. Steven joined BASF in March 2014 through the Professional Development Program (PDP) after completing his graduate work and post-doc at Purdue University in Chemical Engineering. As a PDP, Steven rotated through R&D roles in the areas of effect pigments, emission catalysts, and engineering plastics and served as a key contributor to two major process innovations and one patent. Steven has previous work experiences at NASA, NOAA, Sandia National Labs, and several private companies in the areas of coatings, semiconductors, electrochemistry, and polymers.

BASF Representative: Dr. Michael Hansen

Position: Quality Scientist

Location: Southfield, MI

Biographical Summary:
Dr. Michael Hansen is a Quality Scientist for BASF and works in their automotive coatings division. He currently leads rapid action teams that focus on solving customer and supplier issues. Michael joined BASF in 2013 through the Ph.D. Professional Development Program. While in the program he worked in the automotive, oil field and agricultural industries where he established new test methods, instruments and market strategies. Michael completed his Ph.D. in Chemistry at Purdue University where he studied delivery mechanisms for pharmaceutical drugs.
**BASF Representative:** Dr. Lucas Amundson

**Position:** Senior Engineer / Laboratory Leader

**Location:** Hillsboro, OR

**Biographical Summary:**

Dr. Lucas Amundson is a senior engineer and laboratory leader in BASF’s Electronic Materials Division in Hillsboro, OR. Lucas studied at Bowdoin College – under the advisement of Dr. Elizabeth Stemmler - where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree with ACS certification in 2006. In 2011, Lucas obtained his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from Purdue University - under the direction of Dr. Hilkka Kenttämaa – focusing on complex mixture analysis using advanced mass spectrometric techniques. After completing his Ph.D., Lucas joined Intel Corporation as an LTD process wet etch engineer, supporting tool ownership and 22nm development and manufacturing. In early 2015, Lucas joined BASF as the senior engineer of advanced cleaning, etching, and photo ancillaries within the Electronic Materials Business Unit. He is responsible for creating and developing a new laboratory to serve the specialized chemical needs for multiple global microelectronic industries. Lucas focusses on manufacturing customer-oriented chemical formulations for precise cleaning and etching requirements. In his existing role, Lucas serves as the North American contact for both our Global Research & Development and Technical Marketing teams.