

Robert Smith is a PhD candidate in the Chemical Engineering Department at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA, USA with an expected graduation of May 2013. He received his BS in Chemical Engineering from Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, USA in 2008 and completed an Honors thesis on characterization of crystallized polymers. His PhD thesis work involves developing multiscale modeling methodologies for materials in renewable energy and nanotribology applications. This work has had a high impact in the nanoscale design of hard disk drive lubricants and overcoat materials. In addition, he has had a longstanding collaboration with the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh working on simulating materials for carbon capture. Mr. Smith has over 9 publications in scientific journals and is a prolific presenter at various conferences. His most notable honors include the National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, the Carnegie Institute of Technology Dean Fellowship, and the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists Scholarship. Mr. Smith serves as an executive board member of the Pittsburgh Chapter of the National Organization of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers and is an active member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers.