

Andre Lamont Thompson

Hometown: Detroit, MI

Degree: PhD in Materials Science and Engineering

Department: Materials Science and Engineering

Undergraduate Institution and Major: Morehouse College-Bachelor of Science in Chemistry

Current Activities/Hobbies: Intramural Sports: Basketball, Flag Football, Broomball, Dodgeball, Softball, Whirlyball, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee

Involved with NSBE in the past?: As an undergraduate student, I was a member of NSBE for 4 years and I attended the NSBE conferences to reach out to graduate schools. As a graduate student, I continue to attend the NSBE conferences to recruit undergraduate students to apply to the University of Michigan's College of Engineering Graduate Program and attend the Engineering Graduate Symposium. I have also been the social chair for the Society of Minority Engineers and Scientists-Graduate Component (SMES-G) for 3 years where we conduct community service, host social events, invite speakers to lead workshops on specific topics, and collaborate with other organizations to promote awareness and knowledge of life inside and outside of graduate school.

Why did you choose to attend Graduate School?: I chose to attend graduate school because I enjoy conducting high level research and working on a scientific project with an ultimate goal in mind. I also wanted to have the freedom to choose my own research topic and gain more knowledge in the field of materials science and engineering.

Research summary: Under Dr. Brian J. Love, I am characterizing structural changes that arise in the polyethylene oxide-polypropylene oxide-polyethylene oxide (PEO-PPO-PEO) amphiphilic triblock copolymers (commercially known as Pluronics) as a function of temperature through Differential Scanning Calorimetry (DSC). I am also measuring how adding small amounts of ternary additive drugs perturb the structure and the driving force for micelle formation in aqueous PEO-PPO-PEO solutions with different block lengths and hydrophilicities.

Career goals: My career goals after graduation are to either work in a research and development division for a company in industry, or work for the government at a national laboratory where I can conduct research in the Polymers and Biomaterials field.