Doctoral student Samuel Bliesner prepares a solvent to process plastic films in the lab of Julie Albert, assistant professor in the School of Science and Engineering’s Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. The liquid will be used to alter the surface of a thin biodegradable plastic. The experiment will inform researchers about the best methods for controlling surface features at the microscopic level, giving them potential control over biodegradability for applications in cell culture or pH sensing.