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November 11, 2015



Join us for the SPE Automotive Innovation Awards Competition & Gala at Burton Manor in Livonia (Greater Detroit) where we honor the best in automotive plastics. To register and find out more details see <http://speautomotive.com/inno.htm>.



SPE Detroit Section Plant Tour

Linear Mold & Engineering

Monday, November 16 5:00 to 8:00 pm

Reservations required!

For more details please see

<http://spedetroit.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/SPE-Detroit-Section-Plant-Tour-Linear-Mold-11-16-2015-rev2.pdf>

**In this issue: Learn more about SPE's new
information tool – **PLASTICS INSIGHT****



TPO Conference Highlights

**An article from Ferris
State University
students**

**And much, much
more!**

Volume 60 ▲ Number 3

DETROIT SECTION - SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS - "THE CHARTER CHAPTER"

November 2015



TRENDS & TOPICS



President's Message

Dr. Adrian Merrington
Midland Compounding and Consulting
President

From Where do Plastics Engineers Come?

We read in the press increasingly about the lack of availability of qualified engineers. This observation has led to an increased attention on STEM (an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education). STEM supports broadening the study of engineering within each of the other subjects and beginning engineering at a younger age.

The U.S. National Academies expressed their concern about the declining state of STEM education in the United States (2006). President Barack Obama renamed and broadened the *Mathematics and Science Partnership* in the 2012 budget to award block grants to states for improving teacher education in STEM subjects. The *America COMPETES Act* is intended to increase the nation's investment in science and engineering research and in STEM education from kindergarten to graduate school and postdoctoral education.

All this activity is of great importance to those of us who are employers looking for talented staff to hire and for the country as a whole as we try to remain competitive in the world's changing business climate.

Okay, that's a pretty heavy lead in for a newsletter article but it is important; important enough that the Detroit SPE has made education one of its key concerns. So much so that Detroit currently spends more on education than any other SPE Section or Division.

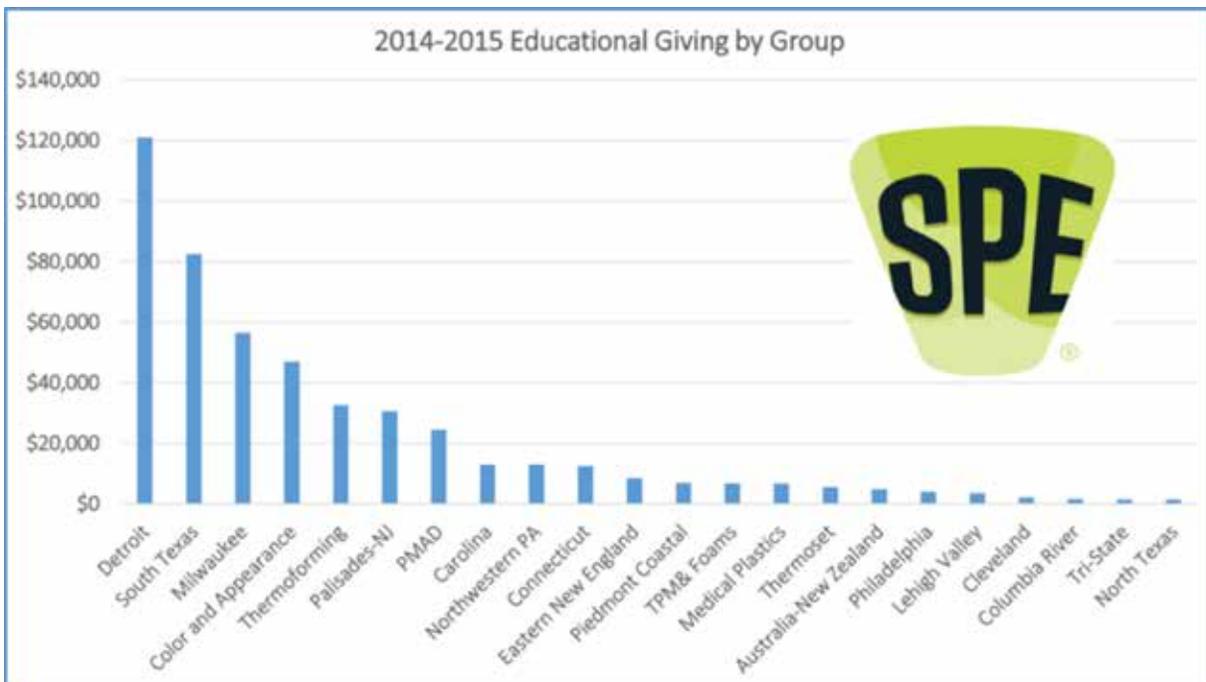


Figure 1. SPE Group Educational Spending for 2014-15

The Detroit Section promotes education in and about plastics at all ages:

- For those in the workforce we offer continuing education opportunities through our conferences and technical programs. Those conferences include AUTOEpcn and the TPO conference as our principal foci, but SPE International offers many other conferences for member benefit. We offer a series of technical dinner programs each year and also partner with other local technical groups so our membership can have access to their presentations also.
- The younger members of the working community have our Next Generation committee to look to. This committee offers programs designed specifically for those who have just entered the workforce.
- We sponsor full Student Chapters at Ferris State, Michigan State, Kettering University, and Schoolcraft College, and we're developing programs at the University of Michigan, Saginaw Valley State, Delta College, and Mid-Michigan Community College. In addition to sponsoring programs at these schools, we offer scholarships to those students who excel in courses with a strong plastics bias. Two of our past-presidents and others have developed college programs at Schoolcraft to help fill the gap by educating employees to meet employer needs.
- We promote plastics to middle and high school students through our Wonders of Plastics annual essay competition. We reward a north and south winner each year and are now investigating ways to award a grand prize for the best essay submitted in Michigan.
- We promote plastics to elementary and middle school students each year through our sponsorship of PlastiVan visits to local area schools and educational events. This sponsorship puts plastics use and the potential for a future career in plastics in the minds of the young. Our sponsorship ensures that thousands of local area children get to see this message annually.

The Detroit Section believes in education about plastics. It's only by continuing this support that we are going to have an appropriately educated workforce that meets our nation's needs. Figure 2 shows how we've remained committed to supporting our education goals for some time.

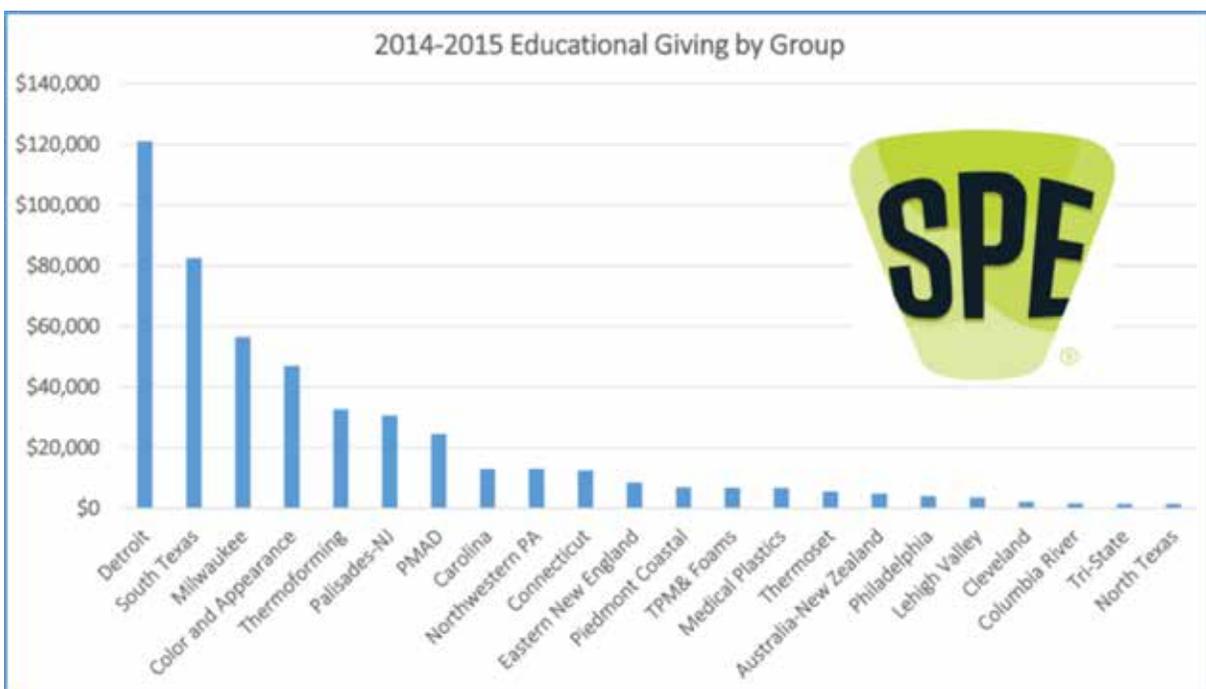


Figure 2. Lifetime Educational Giving by SPE Group

You can help by bidding at our fundraiser, the Materials Auction; by providing sponsorship dollars specifically designated towards education; and by sponsoring conference activities. When you decide that this is also important to you, please get in touch with me, and we'll work out how we can fund these important activities together.

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that lets
beauty love
brains.**



BASF high-performance materials are smart — and yes, beautiful. Offering greater design flexibility, lighter weight parts, shorter production times and lower costs than traditional materials, our plastics and polyurethane solutions can be found inside and out of some of the world's most popular automobiles. From seating to instrument panels and consoles to suspension, we're at the heart of many intelligent design and manufacturing solutions. Because at BASF Performance Materials, we create chemistry for a more beautiful tomorrow. And a better ride.

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 **BASF**

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World's first top mount with polyurethane bearing and polyamide housing

- **BASF combines plastic specialties Cellasto® and Ultramid® for the first time**
- **Globally available top mount is 25 percent lighter than aluminum die-cast version with rubber**

BASF is now expanding its expertise in top mounts to enable car manufacturers an optimum combination of weight savings, pleasant acoustics and vibration damping. The unique NVH (noise, vibration, harshness) solution is made possible by combining two of BASF's plastic specialties: the micro-cellular polyurethane elastomer Cellasto® and the highly glass-fiber reinforced polyamide Ultramid® A3WG10 CR. The top mount with the Cellasto® element and the Ultramid® housing is around 25 percent lighter than conventional aluminum die-cast versions with rubber. It was developed and optimized for serial production using BASF's simulation tool Ultrasim®.

Combination of polyurethane and polyamide

Like other automotive components made of Cellasto®, BASF's globally active Cellasto® business team offers the top mount as a complete solution to car manufacturers. "By joining Cellasto® with an Ultramid® housing in a top mount for the first time, we are combining our Verbund expertise in the best materials, customized design and meticulous quality management to provide our customers with rapid component development and implementation, shorter process chains and global use," says Wolfgang Micklitz, head of the global business management Cellasto®. "This new and complex component offers a sustainable innovation that contributes to further CO2 savings along with high safety and maximum comfort."

Top mounts – the right material mix is decisive

The top mount links the shock absorber to the chassis and thus has a decisive influence on driving comfort and dynamics. The interplay between

the materials of the individual components is therefore of crucial importance: Cellasto® shows very good static and dynamic behavior, has a long life usage and takes up only a small amount of installation space. Components made of Cellasto® have been used in cars for more than 50 years. The PA66 grade Ultramid® A3WG10 CR is reinforced with 50 percent glass fibers and is therefore exceptionally rigid and solid, even at high temperatures. The engineering plastic is particularly suitable for dynamic loads and thus generally a good alternative to metal.

Combined to form the top mount, the actual bearing, the jounce bumper and the dust tube for the shock absorber can be functionally integrated and achieve good damping and acoustics. With a manufacturing technique especially developed by BASF, housing and bearing are joined to each other permanently. The CAE tool Ultrasim® was used to calculate the load situations relevant for top mounts, the lifespan and the injection-molding process, taking into account the reaction forces of the Cellasto® core.

Plastic specialties Cellasto® and Ultramid® by BASF

Under the Cellasto® brand name, BASF develops, produces and distributes components made from micro-cellular polyurethane elastomers for parts in chassis, powertrain and interior such as spring aids, top mounts, spring isolators and transmission mounts. BASF is the global market leader in this segment: Today, Cellasto® jounce bumpers can be found in most vehicles that are manufactured around the world. Ultramid®

A3WG10 CR (CR=crash-resistant) is a polyamide specialty that is used mainly in crash-relevant chassis components like front ends, in cross beams and engine mounts.



Above: World's first top mount with polyurethane bearing and polyamide housing.

About BASF's Performance Materials Division

BASF's Performance Materials division encompasses the entire materials' know-how of BASF regarding innovative, customized plastics under one roof. Globally active in four major industry sectors - transportation, construction, industrial applications and consumer goods – the division has a strong portfolio of products and services combined with a deep understanding of application-oriented system solutions. Key drivers of profitability and growth are our close collaboration with customers and a clear focus on solutions. Strong capabilities in R&D provide the basis to develop innovative products and applications. In 2014, the Performance Materials division achieved global sales of € 6.5 bn. More information online: www.performance-materials.basf.com.

About BASF

At BASF, we create chemistry – and have been doing so for 150 years. Our portfolio ranges from chemicals, plastics, performance products and crop protection products to oil and gas. As the world's leading chemical company, we combine

economic success with environmental protection and social responsibility. Through science and innovation, we enable our customers in nearly every industry to meet the current and future needs of society. Our products and solutions contribute to conserving resources, ensuring nutrition and improving quality of life. We have summed up this contribution in our corporate purpose: We create chemistry for a sustainable future. BASF had sales of over €74 billion in 2014 and around 113,000 employees as of the end of the year. BASF shares are traded on the stock exchanges in Frankfurt (BAS), London (BFA) and Zurich (AN). Further information on BASF is available on the Internet at www.basf.com.

September 10, 2015 BASF News Release <https://www.basf.com/en/company/news-and-media/news-releases/2015/09/p-15-317.html>

The graphic features a red and white calendar icon with 'January' written on it. To the right, the text 'Coming Events' is written in a large, black, cursive font. Below this, four events are listed in a vertical column, each with a date, event name, and location. The events are: November 9, 2015 Detroit Section Board Meeting – ACC Troy, MI; November 11, 2015 Automotive Awards Burton Manor, Livonia, MI; November 16, 2015 Plant Visit Linear Mold and Engineering, Livonia, MI; and January 25, 2016 Future City Competition Suburban Collection, Novi, MI. The entire graphic is framed by a red and blue border.



FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



Plastics Engineering Program

Kason Cook, SPE Secretary & Brandon Douglas, SPE Technical Vice President

Plastics engineering is a growing field and Ferris State University is putting in the effort to prepare students for the workforce. The Plastics and Polymer Engineering Technology (PPET) program is growing at a rapid pace. Students have an opportunity to pursue an A.A.S. or B.S. degree. Students who obtain an A.A.S. degree have an understanding of design, material characteristics, and processing of generic grade polymers. Students pursuing the B.S. continue their understanding of the subjects covered during their A.A.S. including processing of engineering grade polymers. The B.S. also introduces classes that give students knowledge of downstream processes, lean manufacturing, data analysis, and project management. In order to achieve these degrees students must complete one internship per degree. These internships must be in industry and a minimum of 400 hours. This allows a student to get hands-on experience and real world knowledge. The hands-on approach is continued in the school year where students work with a range of

injection molding machines with varying ages, sizes and clamp style. These machines are used in labs that last up to six hours to ensure students have enough time to truly grasp the process and learn about the machine's capabilities. This better prepares students to handle any machine they are asked to run and allows them to consistently build their knowledge, whether it is during the summer on internship or during the school year.

Over the past two years enrollment in the A.A.S. degree has doubled. This will lead to larger graduating classes from the B.S. program and guarantee a supply of plastics engineers for the future. With enrollment growing so rapidly Ferris is continuously looking to give students the best the industry has to offer while still educating on the more dated equipment to ensure we are well rounded and comfortable in any manufacturing facility. Overall Ferris State University is crafting engineers that have a deep understanding of the plastics industry and are ready to have a positive and lasting effect on an employer from day one.

Newsletter Sponsors

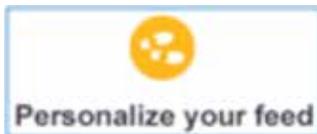
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[Ravago Americas](#) • [Vantage Plastics](#)

SPE National Rolls-Out New Service for Members

Russ Broome – SPE Managing Director

Staying up-to-date with what's important in the plastics industry is vital to you and your business but who has time to read dozens of emails, newsletters, blogs, and publications during their work week? In addition, they all seem to try to cover everything, everywhere for everyone? To address this, in 4Q2015 SPE launched PLASTICS INSIGHT, an intelligent newsfeed that you can swiftly personalize to only see what matters most to you in your niche of the industry. We identified more than 4,000 key industry terms and have aggregated hundreds of online sources to populate an algorithm that keeps updating itself with each subscriber as they customize and read only the relative content.

We purposely chose a weekly release to hit your inbox at 10am, EST on Saturday mornings. This is in hopes that you will find yourselves in a better environment to catch up on plastics industry current events, new technologies, etc. In the future, we will be further customizing these 10am releases to be time zone dependent as well.



The **Personalize your feed** button will allow you to select only those companies and sources you want to follow, and it can be updated at any time. Below is a list of the categories you can select from. In the coming months we will also be adding personalization by Industry, Market, Process, Material, Equipment, Service, etc. This will be part of SPE's commitment to continuous improvement enabling this tool to help keep you on top of our dynamic industry, and ultimately do your job better. You'll be amazed at how easy both staying focused and up to date can be.

Industries/Markets

- Aerospace & Military
- Appliances (Large & Small)
- Automotive
- Building & Construction
- Electrical & Electronics
- Furniture & Housewares
- Industrial & Consumer
- Lawn & Garden
- Marine & Recreational
- Medical & Healthcare
- Packaging
- Sporting Goods & Toys
- Textiles
- Transportation
(Non-Automotive)

Processes

- 3D Printing
- Additive Manufacturing
- Blow Molding
- Compounding
- Compression Molding
- Decorating & Assembly
- Extrusion
- Injection Molding
- Reaction IM
- Rotational Molding
- Thermoforming
- Transfer Molding

Materials

- Bio Resins
- Color & Additives
- Composites
- Compounds
- Elastomers
- Fibers & Reinforcements
- Masterbatches

nano Technology
Self Healing Polymers
Smart Polymers
Thermoplastic
Thermoset

Services

Academia
Mergers & Acquisitions
Prototyping
Recycling
Research & Development
Testing

Equipment

Automation
Primary Processing
Secondary Auxiliaries
Tooling (Molds & Dies)

SPE is also addressing the concerns regarding the relentless telemarketing style sales calls for soliciting advertisers with the current news

source model in place. Your continued patience is appreciated while we finish out the final months of our contractual agreement with the current provider. Starting in January 2016, SPE will offer partners (advertisers/sponsors) the ability to showcase within this product. The partners will also be able to see analytics on how successful their message is being delivered and received. Unlike today, this will all be managed internally by SPE.

The cost of this new product/service is 100% burdened by SPE HQ operations. However, SPE is formulating a revenue share model for affiliate groups that introduce SPE to partners interested in advertising and/or sponsorships. Like the subscriber, the partners will be able to focus their message only to the audience they want to speak to, achieving a higher value and ROI. Stay tuned for more information in the coming months.

For more information and to sign up please see: <http://www.4spe.myindustrytracker.com/en/top>



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Technical Meeting Programs

**Bob Petrach – Safety Technology International
SPE Detroit Secretary and Technical Program Chair**

Dear Detroit SPE members,

Sassan Tarahomi and I are working to fill the calendar. Please let us know what you did and did not like about the events we have had so far this year. Also note some holes in the schedule. We could use your suggestions.

By the time you read this we should have had a successful visit to Ferris State University sponsored by Chase Plastics.

The tour and presentation at Linear Mold & Engineering promises to be excellent. BUT attendance is limited to 20, so make those reservations. If there are enough people we can set a second date, but knowing your plans in regards to the Linear Mold tour as soon as possible is critical.

Also remember EVERYONE is welcome at Board meetings, just RSVP so Karen can plan the meal accordingly.

2015 - 2016 Detroit SPE Board Meetings and Technical Dinner Meetings /Tours		
Date	Event	Location
October 26, 2015	TDM / Plastics Program at Ferris State University	Ferris State University, Big Rapids
November 9, 2015	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC 1800 Crooks Road, Troy
November 16, 2015	TDM / Linear Mold	Linear Mold, Livonia
February 1, 2016	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC 1800 Crooks Road, Troy
February??	TDM / Tour	OPEN to suggestions
March??	TDM / Tour	OPEN to suggestions
March 28, 2016	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC 1800 Crooks Road, Troy
April 11, 2016	Vantage Plastics	Vantage Plastics, Standish MI
May 6, 2016	2016 Auto EPCON	Detroit Marriott -Troy, Troy
May 9, 2016	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC 1800 Crooks Road, Troy
May 23 - 25, 2016.	ANTEC® Indianapolis	
June 20, 2016	SPE Detroit Section Planning Meeting	TBD
June 22, 2016	SPE Golf Outing	
Exact date is TBD	Technical Program	Board / Planning Meeting
Technical program that is confirmed and planning completed		

Be sure to RSVP/pre-register by sending an email to Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at karen@spedetroit.com for upcoming events.



SPE Detroit Section Plant Tour

Linear Mold & Engineering

Date: Monday November 16, 2015
Time: 5:00 – 8:00 PM
Location: Linear Mold & Engineering
12926 Stark Rd, Livonia, MI 48150
Phone (734) 422-6060

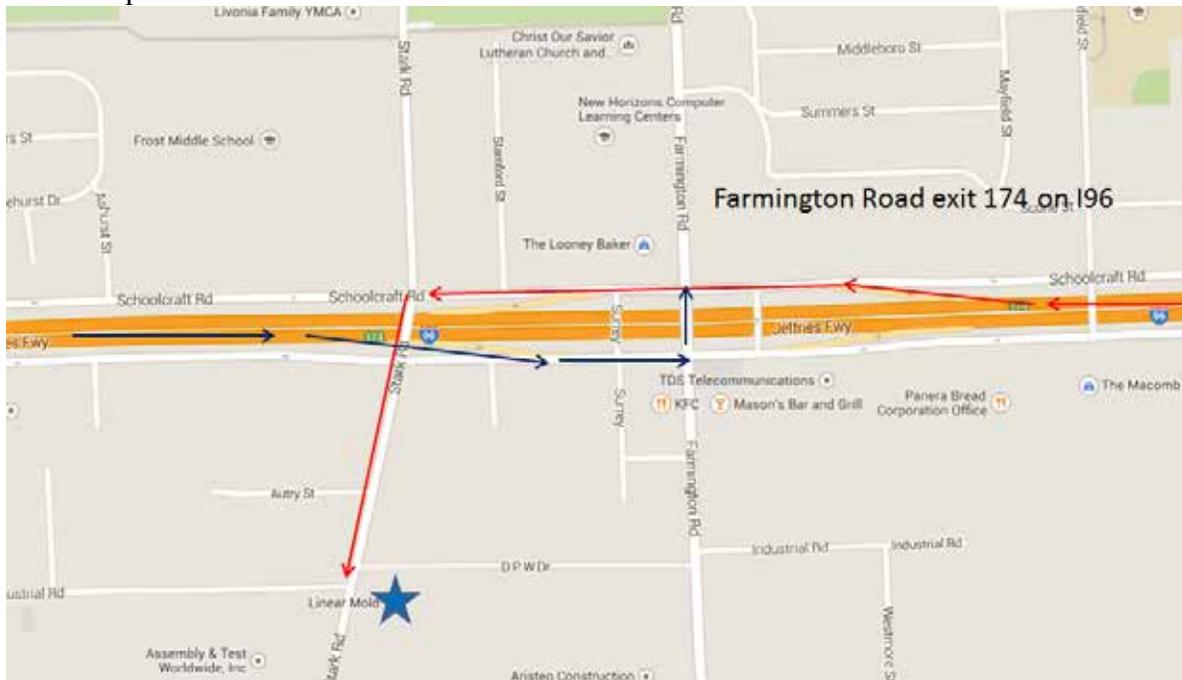
Agenda:

5:00 PM Arrival and Networking
5:30 PM Pizza / Sandwich
6:00 PM Linear Mold & Engineering presentation
7:00 PM Facilities Review
8:00 PM Program Ends

NOTE: Facilities capacity limits this event TWENTY people. Please RSVP as soon as possible:

Cost: Free to students, University faculties and SPE members, non-members \$10

Direction Map:



Linear Mold & Engineering is a provider of tooling for injection molds, compression molds, and any tooling required for processing of thermoplastic resins. It is North America's largest privately-owned provider of 3D Metal Printing services, an additive manufacturing process used in the creation of functional metal parts for prototyping purposes, as well as creation of conformal cooled tooling inserts for production injection molds. Linear is a solutions provider where AM is Actual Manufacturing (i.e. AM-Actual Manufacturing). Linear has 10+ 3D Metal Printing machines, with plans for additional equipment. Linear offers complete services from product design to tool design and manufacturing for any type of plastic product. Linear is a leading manufacturer of prototype injection molds, bridge tooling, blow molds, prototype parts, and serve a variety of industries, such as the automotive, aerospace, medical, military and many more.

Presenters will be announced in an update of this announcement.

Please RSVP with Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at [mailto: Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com) or call at 248-244-8993 Ext. 3

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The 17th ANNUAL SPE AUTO TPO CONFERENCE RECORD ATTENDANCE, SPONSORSHIP/EXHIBITS AND TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, IAC

The 17th-annual **SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference** returned to the Troy Marriott in the Detroit suburbs on Sunday, Oct. 4th and it came to a close at noon on Oct. 7th. This year's program "TPOs Delivering Performance," set all kinds of records with the largest attendance, technical presentations and sponsorship/exhibition in the event's history.

We kicked-off this year's TPO conference with two afternoon workshops on Sunday. The first workshop was *Scratch and Mar Testing* by Reliable Analysis Labs, Inc. The second workshop was *Colors for TPO* by Americhem, Inc. One lucky attendee won an Apple Watch by attending both workshops and completing a feedback form. The evening reception was sponsored by Trinseo, our new platinum sponsor this year.



On Monday morning Sassan Tarahomi – IAC, the new conference co-chair, opened the conference by welcoming the audience and introducing his co-chair David Okonski - GM. Sassan recognized the TPO committee for their tireless effort for the past 12 months in preparing for the event. Next, he introduced the conference executive chair and the first keynote speaker, Michael Whitens, director - Vehicle & Enterprise Sciences, Ford Motor Co. Michael delivered a powerful speech on *TPO: A Customer's Perspective*. The second keynote speaker Dr. David Cole, chair - Auto Harvest Foundation, presented *The Auto Future: Fast, Furious and Exciting* followed by Dr. Norm Kakarala, conference technical co-chair, who provided to the audience a quick rundown of the technical program and a complete listing of the new sessions offered. Sassan recognized all of the sponsors and media and offered a few minutes to Monday's platinum sponsors—Sumitomo Chemicals, the lunch sponsor, and Advanced Composites, the reception sponsor, to deliver a short message to the audience.



• Michael Whitens, director - Vehicle & Enterprise Sciences, Ford Motor Co.: *TPO: A Customer's Perspective*



• Dr. David Cole, chair - Auto Harvest Foundation: *The Auto Future: Fast, Furious and Exciting*

Technical presentations started immediately after the break on Monday morning and continued until Wednesday just after noon.



Monday morning opening remarks by Sassan Tarahomi



Sassan and David presenting Michael Whitens with appreciation plaque



Sassan and David presenting Dr. Cole with appreciation plaque Dr. Norm Kakarala presenting the technical program highlights



Dr. Rose Ryntz - IAC, Surface Enhancement session co-chair, presenting a certificate of appreciation to Ted Hayes - Dow for presenting at the Conference.



Laura Soreide - Ford, Advances in Automotive Polyolefin session co-chair, presenting a certificate of appreciation to Jakob Oliverius - Borealis AG for presenting at the conference.



Audience asking question to presenters.



Sumitomo Chemicals sponsored lunch on Monday October 5th.



Advanced Composites reception - A live band, lots of great food and friends, ice sculpture and a superb sushi bar completed the Monday event.

The conference continued on Tuesday with the conference co-chair, Sassan Tarahomi – IAC, re-welcoming the audience and recognizing the original 10 people and organizations who started the TPO conference in 1999. Sassan explained that each original team member is recognized as a TPO conference emeritus committee member and was presented with an award last year entitling them to attend the conference at no charge. Seven of the original 10 team members are still active with the conference and were among this year’s committee members. Sassan asked for any of those members present in the room to stand up and be recognized.



The TPO Conference Emeritus Committee Members. Members denoted with a star are still active with the TPO conference and contribute to the conference’s growing success.

Next, Sassan introduced the third keynote speaker John Moyer, president - Asahi Kasei Plastics North America Inc. John presented a great speech on *Oil, Shale Gas, Fuel Efficiency, Lightweighting, & Other Funny Things that Happened on the Way to the TPO Forum*. Following John Moyer, Sassan introduced Brian Weider, president - Sumika Polymers North America Inc. Brian delivered a superb view on *Global Outlook for the Polyolefin and Automotive Business*.



• John Moyer, president - Asahi Kasei Plastics North America Inc.:
Oil, Shale Gas, Fuel Efficiency, Lightweighting, & Other Funny Things that Happened on the Way to the TPO Forum



• Brian Weider, president - Sumika Polymers North America Inc.:
Global Outlook for the Polyolefin and Automotive Business

Sassan recognized the lunch sponsor Krauss-Maffei and the reception sponsor Wellman Advanced Materials and offered each a few minutes to deliver a short message to the audience. Nippani Rao, and Dr. Suresh Shah, the committee co-chairs for the TPO Part Competition, presented the winners with their awards. This was followed by Ron Price, emeritus and current committee member, presenting the media sponsor recognition award to Drew Winters, WARDS Automotive, recognizing its many years of advertising and partnership with the TPO conference. Next Dr. Kakarala presented an award to Robert Eller of Robert Eller Associates in recognition of his long-standing sponsorship and commitment to the TPO conference.



Sassan and Dave presenting John Moyer and Brian Weider each with an appreciation plaque



Asahai Kasei Team with the Tonneau Cover for Toyota Tacoma Pick-up as the Exterior Award Winner



Michael Sayer – IAC, Greg Connelly –FCA and Sassan with the FCA Minivan Integrated Assist Grip as the Interior Award Winner



Faurecia team with the 2013 Peugeot 308 door trim with NAFILEan Winner of Environmental Green category



Drew Winters – Ward’s Automotive recipient of the Sponsorship Award



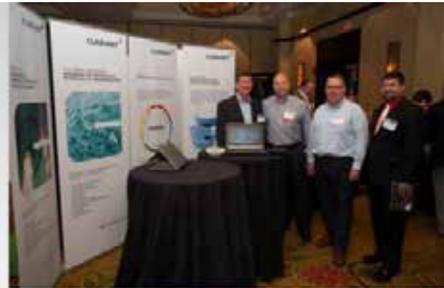
Dr. Kakarala presenting the Sponsorship Award to Robert Eller – Robert Eller Associates.

Tuesday - October 6, 2015



Tuesday Reception Hosted by Wellman Advanced Materials

Tuesday - October 6, 2015



Exhibitors

David Okonski – GM, conference co-chair, kicked-off the third day of the conference with his opening remarks by thanking the conference committee members and all sponsors who contributed to the continued success of the conference. He also reminded them of the early bird sign-up for the 2016 TPO Conference and to return their feedback forms for a chance to win an Apple Watch. Next, Dave introduced Matt Carroll, engineering group manager at General Motors Co., who presented *The Evolution of TPO Material Performance*.

Following Matt’s speech, David recognized the Sunday reception and Wednesday box lunch sponsor Trinseo and offered them a few minutes to deliver a short message to the audience. The technical session started immediately after a short break.



• Matt Carroll, engineering group manager - General Motors Co.:
The Evolution of TPO Material Performance



Sassan and Dave presenting Matt Carroll with an appreciation plaque



Sassan and David, conference co-chairs, enjoying a bit of rest



The 2015 TPO Conference came to end on Wednesday October 7 at 12:30 PM with all attendees heading home and back to work keeping the 2016 TPO Conference in mind.

Pittsburgh Council Meeting October 9-11, 2015

Sandra McClelland, Detroit Councilor
Solvay Specialty Polymers



The fall council meeting was very different from recent meetings. It opened on Friday evening with a team building exercise that culminated in assembling bikes for kids from the local YMCA. This was a great event sponsored by the SPE Foundation to get bikes to local kids in need. A company called Magnovo Training Group ran the program. Most of us had been through numerous team building events, but the councilors who participated thought this was a unique, interesting event that was also a lot of fun.



Above: SPE Council Bikes-for-Kids Team Building Exercise

As I normally do, I will divide up the report on the council meeting into the upcoming newsletters. If you have any questions regarding the information please contact me.

The current president, Dick Cameron, is looking at SPE relevance during his term. He is looking at changes to facilitate interactive contact and communication with the members. Some of these changes have been in process for some time within SPE

International. These include new interactive services such as The Chain. The Chain is an online community platform with tools to link people for topical discussions so you can find the information you need while developing a broader professional network. These communities are designed to provide awareness of SPE activities, promote member interaction and engagement, and facilitate work activity for SPE leadership and staff. Tech Talk, which is part of The Chain, is a good way to get answers to questions and find out about technical items.

SPE has also recently implemented a new website at www.4spe.org. This website has a lot of information about what is going on across the international organization. There is also information on student chapters at colleges and universities, the PlastiVan program, and other educational items.

The weekend we met also saw the launch of SPE's Plastics Insight (see related article on page 8). This resource is a focused way to get the most recent data regarding the areas of interest for the plastics industry. Delivery will be on Saturday mornings. To personalize your newsletter, simply select the industries, markets, processes, materials, services and equipment of greatest interest to you at <http://www.4spe.myindustrytracker.com/en/top>.

SPE is also working to create video tutorials on a variety of topics. These will be available on the web soon. SPE International has linked up with a new product database

of polymer materials that will be on the SPE website where you can search for polymer materials. Expect an email from SPE describing this resource.

Another recent development is a free electronic SPE membership. As an electronic member you will have access to some basic SPE items, but can also purchase premium items as desired.

One of the larger issues at this meeting was the review and discussion of the work which the Governance Task Force (GTF) is doing. This group of people was put together to evaluate the governance for SPE International and determine possible changes. Members on the task force are: Paul Browitt, Cor Janssen, Sandra McClelland, Sergio Sanchez, Scott Steele, Scott Owens, and Dick Cameron. We realize that as industry changes, SPE must also change to remain relevant and vital.

This task force is looking at the current governance and the governance of other not-for-profit organizations. The goal is to propose to the Council new governance

for SPE. A current status report of the task force was presented to the Council. This included the key elements of the Society governance and the composition and roles of the governing body. At the Council Committee of the Whole (CCOW) meeting there was an open discussion of councilors on what they thought of the information. The Council agreed on the general direction the task force is headed and wants the work to continue.

It was determined we would have a person from bylaws and policies sit in on the committee meetings as there will likely be a number of changes to these documents. This will allow them to begin evaluating how they will work to get the changes in place. This will be beneficial since once the GTF is completed and Council has approved the new governance, the bylaws and policies will need to be changed. This will allow the changes to happen more quickly. There was a task force meeting after the Council meeting to review the suggestions brought up on The Chain and at the CCOW meeting.



Would you like the Plastivan to visit the school in your area?

Please contact Tom Miller at thomas.miller@basf.com.

Schedules for school year 2015-2016 are being made now.

Membership Note: Even though you are a member of SPE International, you are not a member of the Detroit Section unless you have selected Michigan-Detroit as one of your technical groups. Members of SPE are entitled to select two Sections and/or Divisions at no charge, and to add additional groups for only \$10/year. There are many benefits in having Michigan-Detroit as one of your groups.



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We need sponsors for the **Trends & Topics** Newsletter!

To reach our members SPE Detroit Section distributes an electronic Newsletter 6 times a year. All ads are full color and copies of the newsletter are posted on the Detroit Section website. A limited number of copies will only be printed to promote the section at various shows.

Acceptable file formats for advertising include:

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If any other formats are to be submitted, please contact Jim at Maple Press, 248.733.9669, fax 248.307.0819, or orders@maplepressprinting.com.

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Advertising rates are based on a 6 time run starting in September. Please email or call for information on other Sponsorship opportunities or less than full year rates after October 1st.



2016 Call for PlastiVan Nominations

The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Detroit section is pleased to offer continued sponsorship of the PlastiVan program to middle/junior high and high school students throughout metropolitan Detroit with an emphasis on introducing the program to new schools this year.

The PlastiVan is a great way to WOW and excite young people about science and the vast opportunities the plastics industry has to offer. The program travels to schools and companies throughout North America, educating people of all ages about plastic's chemistry, history, processing, manufacturing, sustainability and application areas.

Please contact Todd Hogan (North) or Tom Miller (South) if you have a school you would like to nominate for the 2015-2016 school year.



SPE Detroit Section North

Todd Hogan – Contest Chair
The Dow Chemical Company
433 Building
Midland, MI 48667
Tel: 989-636-5303
Email: tahogan@Dow.com

SPE Detroit Section South

Tom Miller – Contest Chair
BASF Corporation
1609 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, MI 48192
Tel: 810-225-1720
Email: Thomas.Miller@BASF.com

September	
17th & 18th - Northeast Middle School	Midland
21st & 22nd - Jefferson Middle School	Midland
25th & 26th - Delta College STEM Festival	Saginaw
October	
6th - Western Middle School	Midland
8th - Meridian Middle School	Midland
9th - Clare Middle School	Clare
12th - Bullock Creek Middle School	Bullock Creek
16th - John Glenn High School	Bay City
19th - Nouvel Catholic High School	Saginaw
20th - Beaverton Middle School	Beaverton



e-Communications

Irv Poston – General Motors (retired)

Detroit SPEaker Revealed!

The Detroit Section has had pages on Social Media for several years with a by-line of Detroit SPEaker. This by-line was used to provide a continual presence on the web regardless of the person behind it in future years. Let it be known at this time that our very first Detroit SPEaker, who continues to this day, is none other than our current President of the Detroit Section, Adrian Merrington of Midland Compounding and Consulting. He is a past President of the former Mid-Michigan Section, and was a key player in the merger of that Section with the Detroit Section.

He established the sites and is continuing in his role as Detroit SPEaker. He encourages all of you to join and follow the Detroit Section on Social Media. Configure your accounts to receive emails when new postings are made, bookmark the sites as favorites, and click through to the information being provided on the web.

Detroit SPEaker is constantly providing information on the Detroit Section pages on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook, as well as on pages of other LinkedIn groups including the Society of Plastics Engineers International. Icons and apps are available for your computer desktop, laptop, tablet, and smartphone for direct access to Detroit Section pages to put you only a click or touch away. And the best news is that there is no charge for any of this, just a little initial effort on your part.

Be sure to “like” the postings and make comments since this extra action on your part will keep the postings popular and active. Feel free to start new discussions and to “Tweet” your feelings. You are the key to making Detroit SPEaker’s efforts meaningful and worthwhile.



LinkedIn gives a preview of the beginning of the web page where a click will take you to the complete webpage.

<http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Society-Plastics-Engineers-Detroit-Section-4404194>



Twitter provides a link for you to click to find the information on the web. It also has photos.

<http://www.twitter.com/DetroitSPEaker>



Facebook lets you click on a link for complete details that are on the web.

<https://www.facebook.com/detroit.speaker>



Detroit Section
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Click on www.SPEdetroit.org on any page to go to our website.

Click on hyperlinks and Sponsors' Advertisements to go to websites for more information.

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