



## 20th Annual Essay Contest Winners Nathan Williams and Shane Hogan

Read the winning essays in this issue!



Nathan Williams – Southern Contest Winner  
Plastics and Safety in Automobiles



Shane Hogan – Northern Contest Winner  
Plastic as an Art Medium





# Letter from the Editor

Eve Vitale

Fall is a busy time for Detroit SPE. Our Technical Program schedule is filling up fast (see page 19 for the schedule), the TPO Conference is just around the corner (page 33), and our own Santa's elves are busy getting ready for our Christmas toy donation program.

After our summer hiatus we have so much to share so this is a big issue. To improve navigation, you'll find a new feature in your Detroit SPE newsletter—the "In this Issue" page which will make easier to find the information that's important to you.

SPE is right for you if you're in the plastics industry and want to:

- stay abreast of new technology,
- impact students who are considering plastics as a career possibility,
- network, or just stay in touch with colleagues and friends.

[eve.vitale@series1one.com](mailto:eve.vitale@series1one.com)

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# President's Message

Wayne M. Hertlein  
President

Hello, Detroit Section Members:

As the 74th incoming president of the Detroit Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers, it is truly an honor and a privilege to serve as your new President.

The Detroit Section is the birthplace of the Society and was established in 1942. From the first president of the section, Fred Conley, until the most recent president, Adrian Merrington, this Section has been led by dedicated and committed people. Their commitment has been so strong that we still have eleven (11) Past Presidents serving on our Board of Directors today, namely:

- 1998 – 1999 Norm Kakarala
- 1999 – 2000 Tom Powers
- 2000 – 2001 Nippani Rao
- 2004 – 2005 Tom Pickett
- 2005 – 2006 Tom Miller
- 2009 – 2010 Sandra McClelland
- 2010 – 2011 Gary Kogowski
- 2011 – 2012 Bob Petrach
- 2013 – 2014 Pete Grelle
- 2014 – 2015 Sassan Tarahomi
- 2015 – 2016 Adrian Merrington

We are also fortunate to have five (5) Director Emeriti lending their experience and wisdom to our Board. They are:

- Irv Poston
- Nippani Rao
- Tom Powers
- Norm Kakarala
- Ron Price

We are grateful to have three (3) past ESD Gold Award Winners serving on our Board of Directors as well:

- 2003 Norm Kakarala, Ph.D.
- 2009 Suresh Shah, Ph.D.
- 2015 Irvin E Poston, P.E., FESD

I would now like to introduce the incoming Executive Board of Directors for 2016 – 2017:

- President Wayne Hertlein
- President Elect Bill Windscheif
- First Vice President Eve Vitale
- Second Vice President Laura Shereda
- Past President Adrian Merrington
- Treasurer Tom Powers
- Councilor Sandra McClelland
- Secretary Bob Petrach

The following members round out the remainder of the Board of Directors:

- 2017 Bill Windscheif
- 2017 Marc Bahm
- 2017 Chris Surbrook
- 2017 Todd Hogan
- 2017 Wayne Hertlein
- 2018 Pete Grelle
- 2018 Adrian Merrington
- 2018 Tom Pickett
- 2018 Steven Keinath
- 2018 Gary Kogowski
- 2019 Dawn Cooper
- 2019 Tom Miller
- 2019 David Okonski
- 2019 Suresh Shah
- 2019 Sassan Tarahomi

All Section members are encouraged to attend the Detroit Section's kickoff meeting on Monday, September 12, 2016, from 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. This meeting will take place at the VisTaTech Center at Schoolcraft College in Livonia. We will review the Plastics Program at Schoolcraft and the new equipment in the lab at that meeting. We will also be presenting many Society awards that evening. So, plan to come out and enjoy the evening.

Make sure to put the annual TPO conference on your calendar as well. This event will be held from Sunday, October 2, 2016 – Wednesday, October 5, 2016 at the Detroit Marriott in Troy. This will be the 18th year for this event. I encourage all members to come out to each of our events during the coming year and get involved, make a difference, and become a part of history.

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

Please contact Tom Miller at [thomas.miller@basf.com](mailto:thomas.miller@basf.com).

Schedules for school year 2016-2017 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.

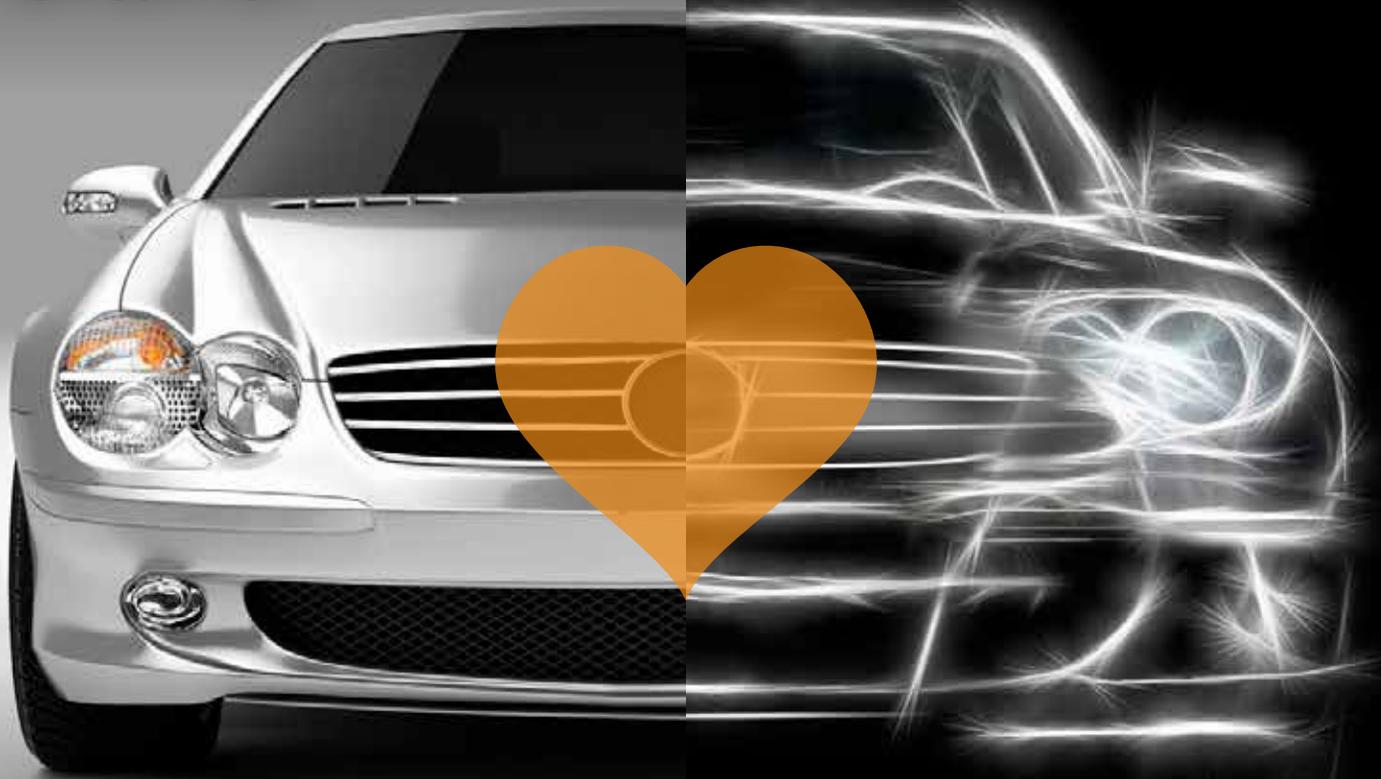
**Coming Events**

**September 12, 2016**  
*Detroit Section Fall Kick-Off Meeting*  
*Schoolcraft College*  
*Livonia, MI*

**October 2-5, 2016**  
*18th Annual SPE Global TPO Conference*  
*Detroit Marriott*  
*Troy MI*

**May 2, 2017**  
*Auto Epcon*  
*Detroit Marriott*  
*Troy MI*

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# Detroit SPE 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Essay Contest Winners

Thomas Miller – BASF

In last May's newsletter we reported the winners of our 20th Annual SPE Detroit Section, "Wonders of Plastics" essay contest. We received over 50 essays this year. Each winner received \$500. Second and third place essays received \$250 and \$100 respectively. All participants received a certificate of participation and \$5 gift card. This month we'll share their essays with you.

The southern contest winner, Nathan Williams, at the time a 7th grader at St. Clair Middle School, is the youngest winner in the 20 year history of the contest! It was quite an honor to get to know more about Nathan's story when I met him to present his award and talked to his mother, Anne Marie.

Nathan's essay entitled "Plastics and Safety in Automobiles" was written in part as a tribute to his late father, Jerry Williams, co-founder of PRISM Plastics, Inc. in Chesterfield Township. "When I read Nathan's essay, I could sense his pride in his father's work and in his company," his mother told me in a follow-up conversation after the presentation.

Detroit SPE's Education Committee is committed to inspiring students to consider a career in the plastics industry. We hope that Nathan will follow in his father's path and become a valuable contributor to our industry.

The northern contest winner, Shane Hogan, has submitted four excellent essays since 2013. Shane's essay entitled "Plastic as an Art Medium" is filled with beautiful images, including two photos of his own goofy plastic art creation Gerald. His essay will open your mind to the seemingly limitless possibilities for plastics use in art. Who knows, you may want to visit your own recycling bin to try your hand at creation!



Above: Shane Hogan receives award from Todd Hogan Detroit SPE's essay contest, support of SPE's PlastiVan™ educational program, and scholarship support of students pursuing degrees at two or four year colleges who are pursuing a career directly related to plastics, are part of our strategy to fill the plastics workforce pipeline with talented young people.

More Winners and Entrants



Above L-R: Tom Miller, SPE/BASF, Nathan Williams, Science Teacher, Joan Rosol, Hannah Williams (Nathan's sister), mother, Anne Marie Williams, Amber Dunbar, Dave Liniarski (Nathan's Uncle)



Samantha Satawa, 2nd Place, Southern Contest, 10th Grade, South Lyon East High School

"Plastics are a Medical Miracle"



Fallon Renehan, Runner Up, Southern Contest, South Lyon East High School



Emma Zobl, Runner Up, Southern Contest, St. Clair Middle School



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# **1st Place Southern Contest Winner**

## **“Plastics and Safety in Automobiles”**

**By Nathan Williams, 7thGrade, St. Clair Middle School**

### **Plastics and Safety in Automobiles**

I am a student at St. Clair Middle School. I have always been very interested in plastics because my father, grandfather, as well as several relatives, work with plastics, mainly in the automotive. Growing up I would always try to lock my friends “in” by pulling on the seat belt as a joke. Little did I know how important that seatbelt really was. Plastics used in automobiles contribute to many safety features.

The seat belt, front end components, and airbag have been proven over and over to save many lives. The use of plastic car parts and how they make a lighter automobile, as well as lowering automation cost will be the focus of this essay. Plastics also help new concepts become a reality much sooner due to plastics engineering, which is the field I would like to work in when I grow up.

The seatbelt is the most important part of safety in cars and this is the field in which my dad worked. He started a business called Prism Plastics, which specializes in seat belt components. I learned through my dad, that almost the whole part of a seat belt is plastic. The belt itself is mainly made of nylon, which is a type of plastic. Unlike when my parents were growing up, many people today couldn't imagine not having or wearing a seat belt. Even though many people don't like them, they are proven statistically to save lives. Plastics have made the modern seat belt possible. The NHTSA (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) estimates that 15,147 lives are saved in the U.S because of this plastic nylon seat belt.<sup>1</sup>

The polymer composite material in the front end of the car is also very important. A composite front end is designed to absorb a great amount of energy disintegrating the front end, but most importantly, to keep passengers safe. If manufacturers used metal instead of a “polymer plastic”

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dr-gridlock/wp/2015/06/08/there-are-about-1-7-million-rear-end-collisions-on-u-s-roads-each-year-heres-how-to-stop-them/>

## Plastics and Safety in Automobiles

material this part of the car could be about 30% heavier. Furthermore, a plastic composite front end absorbs most of the impact energy when a crash occurs, especially in the front end of a vehicle. A test for this was done using a car going 35 miles per hour for a barrier crash test, this was performed by Automotive Composite Consortium or ACC.<sup>2</sup> This company is working with brands like Ford and General Motors. This test concluded fiber-reinforced polymer structure can perform as well as steel components in front end collisions. There are about 1.7 million rear end crashes a year in the U.S. which kill about 17,000 and injure about 500,000,<sup>3</sup> according to an online article of The Washington Post.

In addition, airbags help save lives. Airbags reduce the risk of death in head on collisions by 26 percent.<sup>4</sup> Did you know that a Fiat (one of the smallest vehicles) has up to seven airbags? These airbags are made of a nylon plastic component.

Every year the automotive industry is working harder to replace more and more metal with plastic. This not only helps make a less expensive car or truck, but with weight reductions from 25% to 70%, it also increases gas mileage. Plastics can also improve strength and reduce the need for multiple metal parts by molding one plastic piece.

Using plastics instead of metals helps make concepts into reality faster. Thoughts or new ideas can be drawn up and made into plastics easier and quicker than metals. The ASME stated, It is much easier to make complex shapes out of plastics than metal.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup><https://plastics-car.com/frontend-vehicle>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/dr-gridlock/wp/2015/06/08/there-are-about-1-7-million-rear-end-collisions-on-u-s-roads-each-year-heres-how-to-stop-them/>

<sup>4</sup><http://www.nytimes.com/1992/06/26/us/study-shows-air-bags-save-lives-but-says-seat-belts-are-needed-too.html?pagewanted=all>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.asme.org/engineering-topics/articles/manufacturing-processing/metal-to-plastic-design-flexibility>

## **Plastics and Safety in Automobiles**

As you can see, plastics has contributed a great deal in making automobiles a lot safer. Seat belts and airbags have saved many lives. There are many other features that plastics are utilized in automobiles. The bumper is another plastic component that serves to absorb impact but also, to protect other vehicles from damage in a collision. The bumper shields a vehicle by acting as a barrier between the vehicle and what it comes in contact with.

Plastics have played an important role in making automobiles safer, lighter, and less expensive. The use of plastics has improved the process of manufacturing cars from design to market. A very focused and advanced injection molding operation is able to do trial molds and manufacture parts with minimal room for error and in less time. There are going to be many more uses for plastics and I look forward to being part of the growing future of Plastics engineering, especially in the automotive department.

# Plastics and Safety in Automobiles

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# 1st place Northern Contest Winner

## “Plastics as an Art Medium”

By Shane Hogan, 9th grade, Herbert H. Dow High School

### Plastic as an Art Medium

#### *Foreword\**

My three previous essays for the SPE *Wonders of Plastic* essay contest have been three like installments centralized around the concept of plastic’s ecological relationship with the environment. However fun those have been, they were never my first and favorite idea. Ever since I began submitting to this contest back in 2013, I have always come back around to this one idea, one that I have always struggled to bring to fruition: plastics in art. It has always just been too broad a topic, with too little content to form an essay around. But this year with three essays under my belt, I think I have found a way to tackle it. And so, I present to you: *Plastic as an Art Medium*.

When you think of “art,” you may think of oil paintings and marble sculptures. You probably think of great names like Michelangelo and Da Vinci. But one thing that rarely comes to mind is *plastic*. Believe it or not, there are many contemporary artists that frequently use this polymer as a medium in their works. Plastic may not be thought of as going hand-in hand with the art world, but in many ways, it can—and it has, for quite a while now. Plastics are expanding the artist’s pallet for creative works.

One of the first examples of plastic being used in art is when it made its way into one of the oldest, most traditional art mediums: paint. I’ll give you a quick summary. We first began to see synthetic paints such as lacquer and enamel as a cheaper alternative to traditional oil paint. In fact, Pablo Picasso was among the first to use this synthetic paint in his artwork. By the 1930s synthetic paints replacing natural materials in household paints began to emerge. Around this time, spray paint was also becoming prevalent. In the late ‘40s and early ‘50s, acrylic paints began to be developed specifically for artists. In addition to the lower price point, these new paints also had many other significant advantages over traditional oils of the past. They were highly versatile, they could be diluted in water as opposed to turpentine or paint thinner, they were quick to dry, and are not resoluble, allowing for layering. All in all, acrylic paints were a revolutionary innovation for artists everywhere.

## *Plastic as an Art Medium*

In addition to the paint scene, plastic has also found its way in the hands of sculptors. This may have been the first thing you thought of upon hearing the words “plastic” and “art.” Plastic sculptures—especially those made from recycled materials—are becoming more and more popular as a form of art, from the polymer beasts of the Washed Ashore project to works by professional artists, such as Aurora Robson.



*From The Washed Ashore Project's website.*



*Images of Aurora Robson's work courtesy of inahabitat.com.*

## *Plastic as an Art Medium*

In addition to the traditional art forms—now “plasticized”—some artists are coming up with completely new, innovative ideas for utilizing plastic and its properties to make art. See Tom Price, who can melt and mold plastic into anything from chairs to tables to trees, leaving behind the imperfections of the process that makes each and every piece intriguing to the eye.



*Images of Tom Price's work courtesy of beautifuldecay.com.*

And what about Mbongeni Buthelezi?—the man who “paints” with plastic. This artist takes small strips of colored plastic, obtained from old shopping bags, and melts them onto a canvas, creating beautiful paintings—murals—or whatever



*Image of Mbongeni Buthelezi and his work courtesy of bbc.com.*

## *Plastic as an Art Medium*

name you wish to associate these beautiful creations with.

While researching artists and their pieces for this paper, I was astounded by the simplicity of some of the creations and the materials used. I decided I wanted to try *my* hand at creating a recycled sculpture. I rifled through the recycling bin, finished off the jug of chocolate milk, and scavenged supplies from around the house. After a couple hours—and some blood, sweat, and tears—I created this:



Meet Gerald. He is an adventurous milk jug with bottle cap arms and an awesome soda-bottle-jetpack. He is made entirely out of recycled materials and stitched together with a few craft supplies. (I was short on time, but I guarantee you that if I had painted him, I would have used acrylic!) He is a monumental example of the fact that *anyone*—even I!—can make art using materials around the home; that’s the beauty of the versatility of plastic.

In all seriousness, Gerald might not be much, but he is only one of many works of art out there. Plastic may not be a traditional art medium, but it can certainly be made beautiful if put in the right hands. From its use in paint to make materials more affordable for artists—enabling more to create works of art—to the innovations of artists globally, plastic is making its way in the art world.

# *Plastic as an Art Medium*

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# Schoolcraft College Plastics Technology Program Update

Armando Sardanopoli – SEC/Schoolcraft Faculty

This is a further update of the progress of the Plastics Technology program at Schoolcraft College. We've made very significant progress with a commitment by the College to invest \$170,000 to renovate an area which will house the plastics processing and testing lab. This further emphasizes the school's commitment to the need for such a program and for its future growth.

As mentioned in a previous newsletter this lab has an injection molding machine, a thermoformer, and a compression molding machine. To round out our processing program our next acquisition will be a lab-size compounding extruder. We have identified one company who will help finance this purchase. How would your company like to help out with this purchase and see the benefit of your company brand exposure to future plastics engineers?

In order to help promote the current and future programs in this area there have been visits made to local high schools, companies in the plastics industry, and to engineering students at Schoolcraft College. With respect to local high schools, emphasis has been promoting these programs to the local Career Technical Centers in Wayne, Oakland, and Macomb counties.

The presentation is devoted to making the students aware of the job opportunities and salary potential along with demonstrating plastic parts and their uses. There is also an excellent short video that explains the various types of jobs available: from part designer, mold designer, mold maker, manufacturing, and assembly. We round out the discussion by explaining how the Plastic Technology programs at Schoolcraft College can help get them started on this career path.

Visits to these schools will be an ongoing commitment and will begin again in the Fall.

A similar presentation is made to all the students at Schoolcraft College who are enrolled in the Introduction to Engineering course.

In the past year many local companies were visited to discuss their training needs and to introduce the

current 16-credit skill certificate along with a detailed description of what is planned for the future growth of the program. A 31-credit certificate and an Associate's degree in Plastics Technology are to be introduced in the Fall of 2017.

The one point we have been emphasizing is the need not only for Schoolcraft College to promote the plastics industry as a positive career path, but that industry itself must also take steps to promote this idea. There are companies today who are visiting high schools and offering jobs to the graduating class for the purpose of developing their employees with in-house training and tuition reimbursement. There is also a local company that has developed a 9-week educational program for high school students that exposes the students to various aspects of their manufacturing business. This is done three times a year. Once completed some of the students are offered part time jobs in their area of interest. This is the type of industry involvement needed to help attract young students to the plastics industry.

The Detroit Section of SPE is hosting a dinner at Schoolcraft College on September 12th—you can find details on page 18. This will give industry a chance to hear first-hand about the programs at Schoolcraft College and an opportunity to visit the labs that are art of the Occupational Development programs offered there.

We want to take the opportunity to again to thank the current members of our Advisory Committee for helping develop the course content of the Plastic Technology Programs: Sassan Tarahomi (IAC), Peter Grelle (consultant retired from Dow), Jason Hamilton (Rhetech), Greg Homann (NYX Inc.), Lonny Sumpter (Inergy), Mark Kunitz (Roush Manufacturing), Daniel Walker (PolyFlex Products) and Armando Sardanopoli (retired from BASF). And of course Dean Robert Leadley for getting things done for us at Schoolcraft College.



## SPE Detroit Technical Program Plastics Program/Lab at Schoolcraft College

**Event:** Detroit SPE Fall 2016 Kick-off Meeting - Plastics Program/Lab at Schoolcraft College

**Topic:** Dr. Robert Leadley Dean of Occupational Programs and Economic Development at Schoolcraft College will be presenting a status update on the plastics program at Schoolcraft College and is inviting SPE for a tour of the new Plastics Processing Lab.

**Location:** Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, MI 48152, PH 734-462-4610

**Room:** Vista Tech Center

**Date:** September 12, 2016

**Time:** 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM

**Cost:** Table of 8 for \$500, One seat \$75, free for students & faculty

**RSVP:** Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at [karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:karen@spedetroit.com)





# 2016-2017 Technical Programs & Board Meetings

Sassan Tarahomi – IAC Group

Dear SPE Detroit Section members, I hope you had a great summer and are ready for the colorful Michigan fall. As always this is the time of the year we need to let everyone know about all the exciting programs and upcoming board meetings. My dear friend, Bob Petrach, a long-time member of the Detroit Section, and I have many great activities lined-up for you. Our goal is to offer Technical Programs for the entire geographic area covered by the Detroit Section.

Several programs for Southeast Michigan have already been planned and I will tell you about them here. However, we are planning a few more technical programs in the Central, Northern and Western regions of our Section for the first half of the 2017. We will be reporting on these programs in future newsletters.

Just to remind everyone, SPE board meetings are open to all members. We only ask that you RSVP to Karen at [Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com) one week in advance of the meeting.

We encourage you to write and let us know about ideas, locations, or topics which interest you. We would be glad to follow-up on your suggestions and make it happen. Our goal is to continuously improve our program offerings and our task is to please our membership. We will do our best to make sure you are satisfied with the Technical Dinner Meetings (TDM) and continue to be a great supporter of SPE and the Detroit Section.

We hope to see many of you at upcoming events

2016 - 2017 Detroit SPE TDM and Board Meetings			
#	Date	Event	Location
1	June 20, 2016	SPE Detroit Section Planning Meeting	Wyndham Garden Inn 34911 Van Dyke Ave, Sterling Heights, MI 48312 Phone:(586) 979-1400
2	September 12, 2016	Plastics Program/Lab at Schoolcraft College	Schoolcraft College VistaTech Center Livonia
3	October 2 - 5 , 2016	2014 TPO Conference	Detroit Marriott -Troy
4	October 17, 2016	IP Law Presentation Christopher G. Darrow and Dr. Alex Showalter Ph.D.	ACC
5	October 24, 2016	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC
6	November 21, 2016	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC
7	February 6, 2017	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC
8	February 27, 2017	Lightweighting for Automotive	Engel Technical Facility Livonia
9	March 6, 2017	Compounding	TBD
10	April 10, 2017	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC
11	May 1, 2017	2017 Auto EPCON	Detroit Marriott -Troy
12	May 8, 2017	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	ACC
13	May 15, 2017	Carbon Fiber for Automotive	ACC
14	June 12, 2017	Plant Tour	TBD
15	June 26, 2017	SPE Detroit Section Planning Meeting	Windham Inn Sterling Heights, MI



## SPE PLASTIVAN™ PROGRAM

### ● SPE PLASTIVAN™ SPONSORSHIP

With a national focus on STEM disciplines at all educational levels, both private and public resources are being marshalled to address a shortage of skilled employees across manufacturing industries. It is critical for plastics and related companies to be active in their communities, both to demonstrate career opportunities and to promote the benefits of plastics which are often misunderstood.

The PlastiVan™ Program is a great way to excite young people about the science and the vast opportunities the plastics industry has to offer. The program travels to schools and companies throughout North America, educating middle- and high-school students about plastics chemistry, history, processing, manufacturing, sustainability and applications. Corporate sponsors have a unique role to play in this community outreach program, linking the wonders of plastics to applications and jobs in the real world.

### ● COSTS OF SPONSORSHIP

The fee for the PlastiVan™ program is \$1500 a day. Your sponsorship covers travel & expenses for educators as well as all materials. SPE coordinates all scheduling and communication with schools. This allows more students greater access to the wonders of plastics in their own communities. Sponsorship of the PlastiVan™ Outreach Education Program is a tax-deductible donation.



### ● BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP

As part of the sponsorship package, companies gain access to students, parents and educators in local communities. Sponsoring companies can choose to provide a list of local schools or SPE staff can work with you to select schools and arrange schedules. Many companies choose to send a representative to speak directly to the audience about products and career opportunities. In addition, SPE can help coordinate PR with local press to craft stories about the PlastiVan™ visit. These stories are then added to SPE's library of testimonials highlighting the success of the PlastiVan™ program.

## BECOME A SPONSOR TODAY!

For more information or to schedule a school visit, contact:

**Deb Zaengle**

PH: +1 203.740-5417

dzaengle@4spe.org





# Nominations & Elections

Irv Poston – General Motors (retired)

## Three-Year Term Directors Elected

Thank you to everyone who voted in March to elect five directors to serve on our Board with those previously elected. Special thanks to the members who volunteered to be more active in the SPE Detroit Section by offering to serve on a committee, present a technical talk at a meeting or conference, or write an article for the newsletter. Our Board meetings include committee chairpersons and are open to all SPE members. Join us if you want to be more involved.

The newly elected directors for the term ending 6/2019 are:



**Dawn Cooper** Sales/Product Development Manager with Uniplas, Inc. Dawn has been actively involved with the SPE Detroit Section Board for the past four years, and has been Co-Chair for the Materials Auction and headed up the annual Christmas Toy Donation Program during those four years.



**Tom Miller** has been employed by BASF Engineering Plastics for the last 12 years and currently serves as the Performance Materials Transportation OEM. Tom is a Past President of the Detroit Section and is the long-time coordinator of the Detroit Section Essay Contests and PlastiVan Program.



**David Okonski** is Staff Research Engineer, Manufacturing Systems Research Lab, GM R&D in Warren. David is currently the Co-Chair of the Detroit Section's Automotive TPO Conference and sits on the Curriculum Advisory Boards for the plastics programs at Ferris State and Penn State Erie.



**Suresh Shah** has been in the automotive industry for more than 30 years, working for General Motors and Delphi. He served as Chairman of SPE Automotive Division for the 1999-2000 year and has been a board member of the Automotive Division since 1992.



# Council Meeting Update

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## Sandra McClelland – Detroit Councilor

What follows is a quick overview of the meeting that took place in Indianapolis, Indiana on Saturday May 21, 2016. There is a more detailed version of the update in the second half of this article.

BREAKING NEWS - It has been finalized. SPE ANTEC 2019 will be in Detroit! More details to come in the next few months.

President Dick Cameron presided over **Council I** as his last act as President.

Past President VJ Boolani, Chair of the Nominating Committee, and CEO Wim De Vos gave a recap of SPE's first electronic elections.

- President-elect: Ra'ed Al-Zubi
- Senior Vice President: Thierry d'Allard
- Vice President: Rochelle Lemieux

This is the first time that officers have been elected electronically. These have been done at council meetings, so if councilors did not attend they did not have the opportunity to vote. This also gives the newly elected officers the chance to get involved prior to the start of their term. We did have discussions about how to improve the process for future elections.

Treasurer Jaime Gómez and CEO Willem De Vos gave an update on the financial situation. Treasurer Jaime Gómez explained the final results for 2015 and the audit report as well as the financials YTD 2016. He also gave an outlook for 2017.

The revamp of the governance of the Society continues to be an ongoing task for the Council. President-elect Scott Owens gave an update on the Governance Task Force (GTF) Model mentioning the 3 Year Plan and the importance of leadership development. He also listed the impacts of the GTF Model on bylaws and policies and the timeline of the implementation of the GTF Model.

External speaker Troy Nix gave his presentation "Cadence of Leadership".

As **Council II** started the new President Scott Owens gave his opening remarks. Highlights included:

- Recognition of contributions that make SPE successful (Staff, Volunteers, Committees, Chapters, and our Partners) and the importance of everyone working together
- Overall expectations going forward:
  - Continued effort to unify Society efforts,
  - Support for actions described by the 3-year Operating Plan,
  - Continued action toward implementation of the GTF governance reform model,
  - Continued effort to improve the effectiveness of Council meetings,
  - Priorities for the Executive Committee (EC)
    - Assigned functional VP roles (indicative of the GTF model),
    - Leadership consistent with principles described by the 3-year Operating Plan,
    - Expanded EC participation in committee & task force activity,
    - Bi-directional communication to be adopted as a standard practice, and
    - Maintain transparency to promote confidence and support.

And he also made a call to all SPE Leadership: **Together Let's "Make a Difference"**

Committee Reports were given: Council Committee-of-the-Whole (CCOW) – Chair Sandra McClelland, Sections Committee, Chair Rodney Joslin, and Divisions Committee, Chair Austin Coffey.

Sandra McClelland was elected by Council to serve as CCOW Chair for 2016-17.

Scott Owens, Sandra McClelland, and Wim De Vos gave a synopsis of the 3-year plan.

A motion was moved and carried to remove the European Board as a Standing Committee.

A motion was moved and carried that Council support the GTF's continued effort to establish a governance reform model.

Bylaws and Policies Committee Chair Bruce Mulholland presented the proposed changes in bylaws and policies.

Russ Broome, Managing Director, gave an overview on Plastivan, career portal (Internship module), equipment grant matching program (Industry / Academia), SPI-sponsored student program, speed interview session at ANTEC 2016, and the Plastics Knowledge Project from SPI.

The next council meeting was held in August in Quebec City. This meeting was earlier than usual to begin the implementation of the Governance Task Force recommendations.

For a more detailed accounting of discussions, motions and bylaws, please keep reading.

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Council Committee-of-the-Whole (CCOW): Sandra McClelland gave a synopsis of CCOW. There was a discussion on proposed changes for ANTEC to make the conference better. We also discussed the Governance Task Force Model and the changes to the organization.

Sections Committee: Rodney Joslin gave a synopsis of Section activities. Rodney Joslin moved that Council approve formation of three new Student Chapters: Mid Michigan Community College, University of Tennessee (Knoxville), Western Michigan University. The motion carried.

Divisions Committee: Austin Coffey gave a synopsis of Division activities. No new business. Austin Coffey will be Division Chair for 2016-17 Introduction of Mdula (Babli) Kapur as Vice Chair for 2016-17.

Election of CCOW: Chair Sandra McClelland was nominated by Dick Cameron. Sandra accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received. Sandra McClelland was elected by Council to serve as CCOW Chair for 2016-17. Scott Steele and Scott Owens thanked Sandra for her service.

3 Year Plan: Scott Owens, Sandra McClelland, Wim De Vos gave a synopsis of the 3 year plan. Reviewed how the plan fits into the GTF. Reviewed the methodology and build-up of the plan. Reviewed leadership deployment as part of the plan.

Monica Verheij made a motion to remove the European Board as a Standing Committee. The motion was seconded. Discussion: Craig Bowland offered that the Composites Division may be used as an incubator for a new European structure. John Ratzlaff questioned whether we should dissolve the Standing Committee or wait and restructure the European region. The motion carried.

GTF Model: President Scott Owens called Bruce Mulholland to the floor. Bruce Mulholland moved that that Council support the GTF's continued effort to establish a governance reform model, and agree in principle to the structure and concepts consistent with presentations to date, with the objective of Council voting final approval in August, 2016, and implementing governance reform beginning with the 2017 operating year. There was a second and there was no additional discussion (the topic was discussed extensively during CCOW). The motion carried.

Bylaws and Policies Committee Chair Bruce Mulholland presented the proposed changes in bylaws and policies.

- Membership Classification Clarification: MOTION to adopt the changes in Article 4 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried. MOTION to adopt the changes in Policies 002, 010, 017, 036 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried. • SIG / e-membership Requirement MOTION to adopt the changes in Article 11.1.1 and Policy 015 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
  - Provisional Status Timeline Change MOTION to adopt the changes in Articles 9.2, 10.2 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried. MOTION to adopt the changes in Policy 027 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
  - Official Publication Reference MOTION to adopt the changes in Articles 5.1, 15.2.1.4, 20.1 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried. Minutes Council II Meeting, May 22, 2016 page 4
  - Miscellaneous Bylaw / Policy Changes MOTION to adopt the changes in Articles 1.3, 3.4, 14.3, 5.3, 14.7, 10.3 and Policy 18 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried. MOTION to adopt the changes in Article 17 as published and presented. The motion was seconded and carried.
- Brian Landes gave a presentation on a proposal for a new Pinnacle awards Program. A call was made for volunteers to form a task force for each of the proposed new Pinnacle Awards to develop the metrics for each award.

Industrial / Academia Relations Committee: Vicki Flaris reviewed the mission of the committee and key benefits of the program. Connecting students and industry through joint programs and projects. Success stories – University of Maryland and DuPont; Lehigh University and Beaumont.

Old Business / New Business: CEO De Vos informed Council that the Journals, which bring a profit to SPE of about \$500K each year, have declined in revenue with 7% in 2015 after a long period of flat sales. Since our contract with our partner Wiley is ending in 2017, there will be an evaluation on how to continue the business of the Journals in terms of renewing the contract (including modifying terms) up to selling the Journals. To support this evaluation a Task Force has been created.

Len Czuba spoke on Student activities funding. He recognized the Divisions and Sections who donated to the Student activities.

Rodney Joslin stated that we need to bring back the new Councilor training program.



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[robertpetrach@aol.com](mailto:robertpetrach@aol.com), for space reservations.

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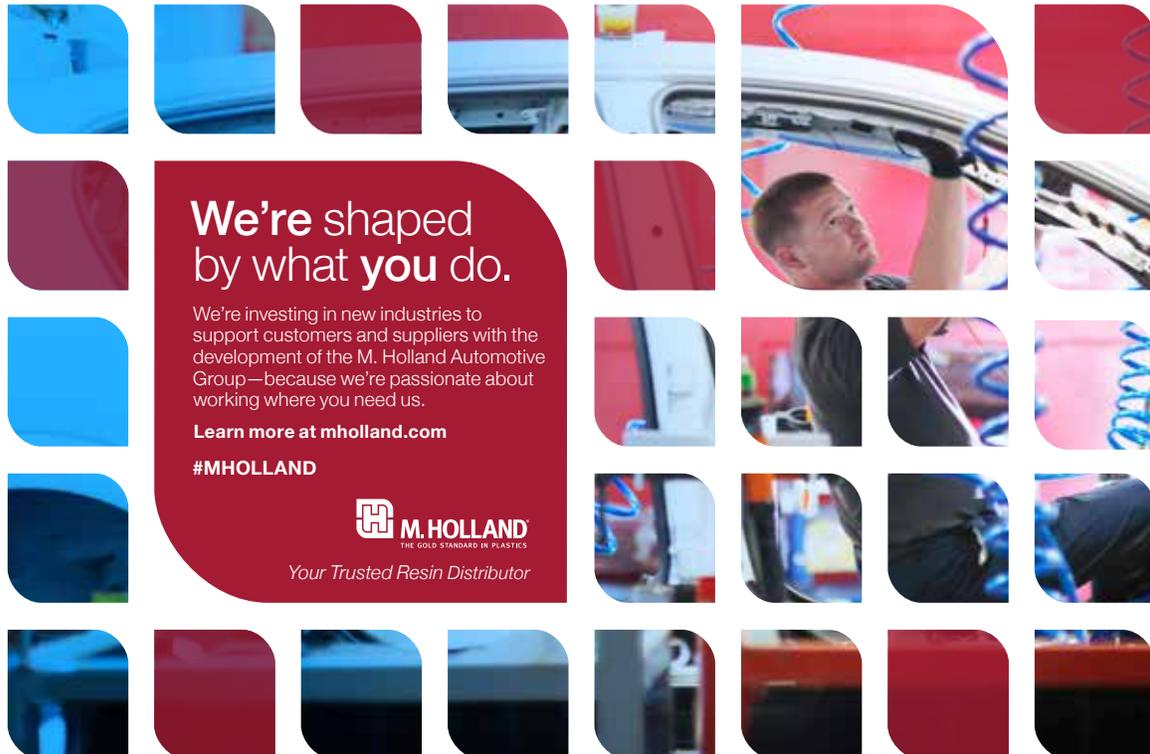
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Advertising rates are based on a 6 time run starting in September. Please email or call for information on other Sponsorship opportunities or less than full year rates after October 1<sup>st</sup>.

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# 2016 AutoEPCON Conference Highlights

Dr. Gary J. Kogowski  
Ravago Holdings Americas



AutoEPCON 2016 was another great success! Three hundred and twenty eight persons registered for the one-day SPE Detroit Section, Automotive Division, and Injection Molding Division conference. The participants included 58 members from automotive OEM staffs, 95 SPE members, 90 non-members, 8 students, and 3 media attendees. This was another record breaking attendance for the SPE AutoEPCON. Proceeds for the conference will be used for the education scholarship budget, Plastivan™, as well as special events such as the “Kids Christmas Toys Program”.

David Compeau (Advanced Development Engineering Plastics and Advanced Materials group leader at FCA USA LLC) the conference OEM Executive Chairperson, introduced the conference theme for 2016: “Engineering Plastics in High Gear”. David brought an OEM perspective to the conference theme and provided a summary of the conference that focused on light weighting, injection molding processes, enabling technologies, and a 3D workshop.

Mr. Compeau continued the conference as the first keynote speaker and presented the topic entitled: “Accelerate the Future Use of Engineered Plastics”. The presentation focused on unique technologies including alternate fibers augmenting the traditional glass fibers, process improvements, the ability to accurately predict manufacturing processes, and to accurately predict the behavior of parts including fatigue and crash behavior. Additionally, there is a need to develop more engineers and designers with the know how to properly design engineered plastic components.

Dr. Saad Abouzahr, (FCA USA LLC Head of Organic Materials Engineering, Material Engineering Group) presented the second keynote entitled: “Structural Composites Opportunities and Challenges”.

Dr. Abouzahr stated the implementation of structural composites will depend on the resolution of issues such as economics, manufacturing, vehicle assembly, design, vehicle performance, environmental, legal, as well as customer perceived value.

Richard Holman, (General Motors, LLC, Sr. Manager Global Foresight and Trends) provided an overview of several of the mega trends used by GM innovation teams to help them better understand the future and determine where to spend innovation resources.

This year the SPE AutoEPCON conference had three great moderators, Dward Kue, Daniel Balavitch, and Eve Vitale. Dward Kue is a senior at Kettering University majoring in Chemical Engineering with a minor in Material Science. He has co-oped with Asahi Kasei Plastics, NA for 3 years, working in Product Development as a lab technician and technology with the Applications Development group. Dward is part of the Sigma Chi Fraternity, where he was Social and Philanthropy Chairman. Dward was our Salon ABC moderator for the Materials Sessions of the conference.

Daniel Balavitch recently graduated from Michigan State University this May and earned a Bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering. At Michigan State he led their student chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineers as the 2015-2016 student president. Daniel is currently looking to enter the plastics industry as a full-time engineer. Daniel was our Dennison Salon moderator for the Enabling Technologies Sessions of the conference.

Eve Vitale currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Detroit Section of SPE and is liaison to the Kettering University SPE student chapters. She is principle of Series One, an engineering consulting firm that specializes in innovation post-industrial

plastics recycling. Eve was our afternoon Salon D moderator in the Injection Molding sessions.

With twenty five sponsors, the 2016 AutoEPCON remains a key conference for networking, communicating new product development, and OEM attendance. We are grateful for the support of our premier sponsors; A. Schulman, DSM , DuPont Automotive, Polyplastics, Trinseo; our Associate sponsors Albis, Arkema, BASF SE, Lanxess, Nylene, and SigmaSoft. Our exhibitors Addcomp, Adell, Asahi Kasei Plastics, Ascend Performance Materials, Autodesk, Beaumont Technologies, EMS-Grivory, Entec Polymers, M. Holland, Md Plastics, Toyobo, and Victrex. Thank you to our break sponsor, UMass Lowell.

Many thanks to our committee members who worked very hard to make the SPE AutoEPCON a success

- Dr. Gary J. Kogowski – Ravago Holdings Americas – Co-Chair – exhibits, Marriott, brochure
- Sandra McClelland – Solvay Specialty Polymers – Co-Chair, technical papers, brochure
- Ed Luibrand – Fiat-Chrysler – sponsorship chair
- Hala Stevens – Fiat-Chrysler – sponsorship. technical papers, brochure
- Glenn Cannavo – DSM - Marriott, AV, exhibits
- Scott Marko – SPE National
- David Okonski – GM / SPE Injection Molding Division
- Suresh Shaw – Delphi Retired – keynote speaker
- Chris Surbrook – Midland Compounding – sponsorship liaison
- Sameer Mehta – Asahi Kasei - sponsorship liaison
- Karen Rhodes Parker- SPE Detroit Section – brochure, committee logistics
- Steve Van Loozen – BASF / SPE Automotive Division – keynote speaker, presenters
- Keith Siopes – DSM - moderators

- Tom Miller – BASF – student liaison
- Eve Vitale – Series One – moderator – Kettering University student liaison
- Stu Allen – Nylene, committee member
- Mike Price – M. Holland - committee member
- Vince Holmes – Channel Prime Alliance – committee member
- Pete Grelle – SPE Injection Molding / Detroit Section
- Fred Deans – SPE Automotive Division – committee member
- Bill Windscheif – Advanced Innovative Solutions – committee member
- Norm Kakarala – SPE Automotive Division – committee member
- Umesh Gandhi – SPE Automotive Division – committee member
- Nippani Rao - Emeritus member, MSU student liaison

The 2017 AutoEPCON is scheduled for Tuesday, May 2, 2017 at the Detroit-Troy Marriott located at 200 W. Big Beaver Rd, Troy, MI 48084. Please mark your calendars.



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# SPE Announces Industry Academia Interface

Leveraging a long association with universities and a large number of plastics industry professionals, SPE has created an Industry Academia interface. This activity's goal is to:

*“promote mutually beneficially collaboration between industry and academia by facilitating research and development projects relating to plastic materials, processes, products and technologies.”*

Many companies are now unable to find enough technically competent employees to research new material or develop new machinery, products and emerging markets.

Many universities have the technical expertise to undertake research or development projects of this type on a contract basis. These need not be large-ticket, multi-year projects. Small projects will be treated with equal respect.

SPE's Industry Academia Committee members will review project requests and put the applicant in contact with universities equipped and staffed to handle that type of project.

For additional information:

1. Log on to [www.4SPE.org](http://www.4SPE.org)
2. Click on to "Resources"
3. Click on to "Industry Academia collaboration"

Or contact IAC Chairman Dr. David Bigio at [dbigio@umd.edu](mailto:dbigio@umd.edu)

# SPE Appoints Foundation Director



SPE has appointed Eve Vitale, 1st Vice President and newsletter editor for Detroit, as its Foundation Director.

Eve holds a B.S.M.E. from Oakland University and a M.S.E. with a concentration in manufacturing from Kettering University; she currently is also the SPE Detroit Section liaison for the Kettering student chapter.

“Eve brings to SPE extensive experience in curriculum development, educational program management, non-profit strategy and fund raising,” said Russell C. Broome, SPE managing director. “We are excited about the contributions that she will make to the vitality of the foundation and the impact it will have on the next generation of talent entering the industry as well, particularly in view of the workforce shortage we all hear about.”

Bill Carteaux, president and CEO of SPI and a member of the SPE Foundation board noted that Ms. Vitale worked with SPI during the initial setup of the plastics program at Kettering University. “I found Eve to be dedicated and aggressive to the cause,” he said. “I’m

convinced that she will be a tremendous asset to the SPE Foundation, and, working with the Board, will take it to levels never seen before, benefitting the plastics industry for decades to come.”

“I’m honored and excited for the opportunity to be part of the SPE Team,” said Vitale. “Through my engagement with the plastics industry I’ve gained a keen understanding of how urgent workforce development is to all of us. I’ve spent a number of years working with engineering students as well as middle and high school students promoting STEM in general and plastics specifically. These youth are very interested in learning more about the important role plastics play in our technical and modern society and are open to career opportunities in plastics.”

Her primary goals working as the Director of the SPE Foundation are to further advance the capabilities of SPE’s Plastivan Program, and to develop and foster increased funding which will be used for educational scholarship opportunities, grants in plastics-supportive programs, and increased academic research in polymers and plastics. “By working together we can increase the much-needed pipeline of talent for the global plastics industry,” she noted.

# DON'T MISS THE 18th ANNUAL SPE AUTO TPO CONFERENCE

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi – IAC



## SHOWCASING THE IMPORTANCE OF ENGINEERED POLYOLEFIN MATERIALS

### RECORD SPONSORSHIP & EXHIBITS, 75 TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS, AND RECORD ATTENDANCE FORECAST

The 18th Annual SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference returns on Monday, Oct. 3rd and runs for 2½ days. Exhibitor set-up is on Sunday, Oct. 2nd at noon. Sunday includes special workshops starting mid-afternoon with a reception to follow at the Troy Marriott in the northern suburbs of Detroit.

This year's program "TPOs Delivering Performance" promises to set all kinds of records with the largest sponsorship/exhibition in the event's history and a professional technical program highlighting the latest global developments in TPO and engineered polyolefin materials.

This year we'll have five industry leaders as our keynote speakers who were specially selected

to bring you the latest news about our ever-changing industry.

- **Betsy Jackson**, TPO Conference Executive Chair & Exterior Product Engineering Director, General Motors
- **Rob Morgan**, Vice President, Advanced Composites Inc.
- **Bernard Rzepka**, CEO, A. Schulman
- **Tom Pilette**, Global Vice President Product & Process Development, Magna
- **Laurie Harbor**, President & CEO, Harbor Results Inc.

Since 1998, the SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference has highlighted the importance of rigid and flexible thermoplastic polyolefins (TPOs), thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs), and thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs) throughout the automobile – in applications ranging from semi-structural composite underbody shields and front-end modules to soft-touch interior skins and bumper fascia. Engineered Polyolefins have been the fastest growing segment of the global plastics industry for more than a decade owing to their excellent cost/performance ratio. This event has become

the world's leading automotive engineered polyolefins forum, typically drawing over 800 key decision makers as well as the world's foremost authorities on transportation polyolefin applications, economics, and market trends. Participants who are interested in learning about the latest in rigid and elastomeric TPO as well as TPE and TPV technologies represent 20 countries on four continents. The TPO Conference continues to provide outstanding

networking opportunities with key members of the automotive TPO, TPE, & TPV supply chain, and the opportunity to learn about designing lighter, less costly automotive components using the latest technologies and applications for these versatile materials.

The sponsors registered for the 2016 TPO Conference as of August 1, 2016 are:

## 2016 SPE TPO AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

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# Volunteer !

Keith Siopes  
Volunteer Coordinator, SPE Detroit Section



Volunteers play a vital role in the success of SPE Events and help groom the next generation of plastics professionals.

Thank you to all who volunteered over the past year, making such events as the Technical Dinner at Ferris State University, the Schoolcraft Plastics Technology Open House, the 2016 Auto EPCON, and other events successful.

The Detroit SPE has ongoing needs for volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to be an SPE Ambassador for technical dinner meetings and other events, to mentor student moderators, or to serve as a volunteer for other SPE initiatives, then please contact me, and I'll keep you updated on volunteer opportunities.

Thank you

[Keith.siopes@dsm.com](mailto:Keith.siopes@dsm.com)

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# e-Communications

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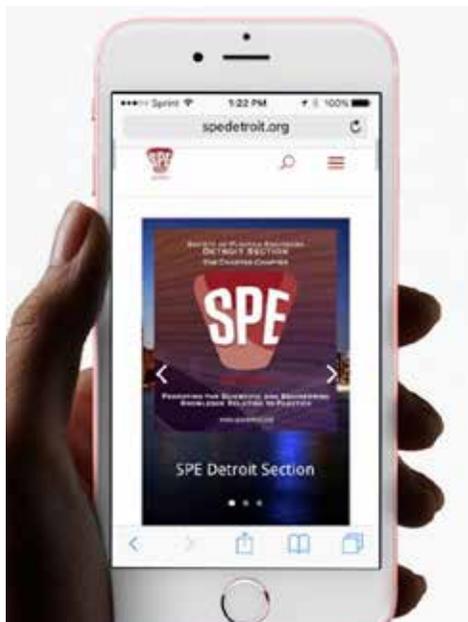
For anyone in the plastics field, there are two important websites to be Bookmarked as Favorites for easy access. Both of these websites are designed to work on desktops, laptops, tablets, and smartphones.

### SPE International Website [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org)



Click on any item in the left menu for navigation. Search “Detroit” for the Detroit webpage and other areas of interest. Click on the SPE logo to return to the Home Page.

### Detroit Section Website [www.spedetroit.org](http://www.spedetroit.org)



Here is what you see on an iPhone. Put an app on your phone to go right to it. There is a link to the SPE International website, and vice versa.

All recent Newsletters and *News Briefs* are available on our website, and links are provided for our Social Media sites on LinkedIn, Twitter, and Facebook.

A listing with links is given for our upcoming Meetings, Conferences, and Plant Visits, many of which are free to members.

Information is given about our Student Chapters, Essay Contest, Material Auction, PlastiVan™ Sponsorship, and local Scholarships which are in addition to the ones we sponsor through the SPE Foundation.



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| Intersociety                  |           | Wayne Hertlein    | Wilbert Plastic Services              |                      | 248-953-7826 | <a href="mailto:wayneh7758@aol.com">wayneh7758@aol.com</a>                                 |
| Material Auction              | Co-Chair  | Dawn Cooper       | Uniplas, Inc.                         | 248-486-1449         |              | <a href="mailto:dawn@uniplasinc.com">dawn@uniplasinc.com</a>                               |
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| Newsletter Editor             |           | Eve Vitale        | Series One LLC                        |                      | 810-814-6412 | <a href="mailto:eve.vitale@serieslone.com">eve.vitale@serieslone.com</a>                   |
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| Public Interest               | Co-Chair  | Dawn Cooper       | Uniplas, Inc.                         | 248-486-1449         |              | <a href="mailto:dawn@uniplasinc.com">dawn@uniplasinc.com</a>                               |
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| Education                     |           | Sandra McClelland | Solvay Speciality Polymers            | 586-264-0063         | 586-292-1794 | <a href="mailto:sandra.mcclelland@solvay.com">sandra.mcclelland@solvay.com</a>             |
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| WebMaster                     | Co-Chair  | Marc Bahm         | BASF                                  |                      | 248-496-2811 | <a href="mailto:marc.bahm@gmail.com">marc.bahm@gmail.com</a>                               |
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| Golf Outing                   | Co-Chair  | Nippani Rao       | Asahi Kasei Plastics                  |                      | 248-444-1753 | <a href="mailto:nippanirao@aol.com">nippanirao@aol.com</a>                                 |

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