

From the Past



Volume 59 ▲ Number 1

RENDS & TOPICS

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

September 2014

A PUBLICATION OF THE AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION OF THE SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS



AUTOMOTIVE PLASTICS News



9th-annual AUTO EPCON Recap

JUNE 2014
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 4

A Record 2014 SPE® AutoEPCON
by Terrence Q. Cressy and Dr. Gary J. Kogowski

To the Future

OCT 5-8, 2014



TPO: Gateway to Innovations



16th Annual **TPO** 

AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE.

DETROIT

DON'T MISS THE 16TH ANNUAL SPE AUTO TPO CONFERENCE



President's Message

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, IAC Group

President

My fellow SPE Detroit Section members and colleagues I am very excited and proud to be accepting the role of the President of the SPE Detroit Section for the upcoming year. I have been a member of SPE since 1989 but my major SPE activity didn't start until 2007 when my boss asked me to help run a Technical Dinner Meeting for the Detroit Section in her absence. I had lots fun that night! Now, 7 years later I am still having fun and enjoying volunteering for various activities, improving communication, advancing the plastics knowledge in our community, helping to grow our section, energizing the section by engaging the next generation and finally helping to preserve the history of the Detroit Section.

During my term I will focus on several key initiatives for the SPE Detroit Section, the first of which is volunteerism. **Volunteerism** is the basis of our organization. Whether you choose to join a committee or a board position, with minimal time vested, you have the opportunity to have a positive impact in our organization, and our future.

My second initiative is to make sure everyone in our section including your humble servant improves his **communication** skill. We all need to do a better job in this area. I will try to take the lead in this and set the examples for others to follow. I will even develop a powerpoint presentation and present it to the section membership in one of the future Technical Dinner meetings.

My third initiative is advancing the plastics **knowledge** base in our community. Personally, I jumped right into this, two years ago and I am still heavily involved. I am currently engaged in developing a 2 year Plastics Manufacturing Program at Schoolcraft College. I encourage all of you to help educate the people in our community. It is with education that we can change our society for the better.

My fourth initiative is to **grow** our organization. Growth to our membership will provide us with additional volunteers and new ideas that would help to strengthen our section and offer great new possibilities.

My fifth initiative for the Detroit Section is to engage young professionals in SPE. To accomplish this, I have established the **Next Generation** committee as of July 1, 2014 and assigned three young SPE Detroit Section members as the co-chair persons in charge to recruit other young professionals, plan activities and carry them out. I am sure you will read about them in our next articles and I hope all of you support this committee and offer them your help.

My sixth initiative is to **preserve our history**. I have introduced a new committee this year to specifically tasked with gathering list of all past executive members of the board for the Detroit Section since its inception. I like to have this list posted on our website for everyone to see and remember how and when we started. Two of our most knowledgeable senior members are assigned with this task and I am sure they will do their best to compile this comprehensive list in the months to come.

Plan for 2014 - 2015

We have many exciting technical dinner meetings, plant visits and university program reviews planned for you.

September 15, 2014 – We have our annual kick-off meeting at Eastern Michigan University (EMU). At this event, EMU Plastics program director will present the latest status of various plastics program at EMU and we will end the program with touring the plastics lab.

October 6 – 8, 2014 - Is our sixteenth annual SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference at Marriott Troy. We are expecting over 800 attendees this year. We have 5 great key note speakers, over 60 cutting edge technical papers and 71 super excited exhibitors to tell you about status of our industry and the latest advances in automotive TPO.

October 20, 2014 – Is planned for the next generation of SPE members. We will listen to couple of great presentations by the current and past next gen advisors and SPE International V.P. Mr. Sergio Sanchez and Dr. Jaime Gomez.

February 23, 2015 – We will be visiting Intellicosting in Troy and learning about their methodology to analyze part cost structure. Using a proprietary software, expert engineers and great understanding of various manufacturing processes is the key to their success.

March 16, 2015 – Is the trip to Mid Michigan Community College (MMCC) and learning about their plastics program and tour their lab facility. I encourage many of our members to attend this event and support this new program in mid-Michigan.

May 5, 2015 – AutoEPCON is our great one day conference dealing with many advanced plastics material, application and process for automotive industry. Our co-conference chairs, Sandra McClelland and Dr. Gary Kogowski have selected Detroit Marriott-Troy as the new location for this event. We do expect to have many more sponsors and exhibitors attending this annual one day technical conference.

May 11, 2015 – We will be visiting the Hi-Tech plant and learn about their capabilities in design and development of various types of molds. Hi-Tech is one of the leading mold makers in North America.

June 2015 – Is the month for our highly anticipated annual Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor Program at Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI) in Midland. Dr. Steve Keinath at MMI is the planner and coordinator of this program. Detail of this program will be published in the first quarter of 2015.

The 2014 – 2015

SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors

It is with great pleasure to introduce to you the Executive board members of the SPE Detroit Section for the 2014 -2015.

The Executive Board

- Dr. Sassan Tarahomi (International Automotive Components) is the president and will continue as the House Chairman, Co-chair of the Technical Programs and active member of the TPO Committee.
- Dr. Adrian Merrington (MMI) is the President Elect and active member of communication and Scholarship committee.
- Wayne Hertlein (MMI Eng. Solutions) is the first Vice president, Intersociety and Historian Committee Co-chair.

- Dr. Gary Kogowski (Entec Resins) is the second Vice President and our Newsletter Editor as well as AutoEPOCN Co-chair.
- Robert Petrach (Safety Technology Internationals Inc) is the Secretary and co-chair of Technical Programs and Sponsorship.
- Sandra McClelland (Chevron Phillips) will continue as the Detroit Section Councilor.
- Tom Powers (Consultant) will also continue to serve as the Detroit Section Treasurer.

The Elected Board of Directors

Term Ending June 2015

- Gary Kogowski
- Tom Pickett
- Adrian Merrington
- Chris Surbrook
- Steven Keinath

Term Ending June 2016

- Tom Miller
- Dawn Cooper
- Jim Keeler
- Robert Petrach
- Laura Shereda

Term Ending June 2017

- Terry Cressy
- Bill Windscheif
- Marc Bahm
- Wayne Hertlein
- Todd Hogan

The Board Committee Leaders

AutoEPCON Conference - Dr. Gary Kogowski and Sandra McClelland

Awards – Nippani Rao and Peter Grelle

Communication and Web Content – Irv Poston, Marc Bahm and Dr. Adrian Merrington

SPE Foundation / Education Fund – Tom Powers and Sandra McClelland

House / Technical Programs – Dr. Sassan Tarahomi & Bob Petrach

Intersociety – Wayne Hertlein and Russ Peters

Material Auction – Chris Surbrook and Dawn Cooper

Membership – Gary Lawrence and Bob Bogdewiecz

Newsletter Editor – Dr. Gary Kogowski

Nominations and Elections – Irv Poston and Nippani Rao

Plastivan and Essay Contest – Tom Miller and Todd Hogan

Public Interest – Dawn Cooper and Patricia Ewald

Scholarships – Tom Miller and Dr. Adrian Merrington

Education – Sandra McClelland

TPO & AutoEPCON Technical Programs – Dr. Norm Kakarala, Peter Grelle, Dr. Gary Kogowski and Sandra McClelland

TPO Conference – Bill Windscheif and Jeff Valentage

Web Master – Marc Bahm

Historian – Tom powers and Wayne Hertlein

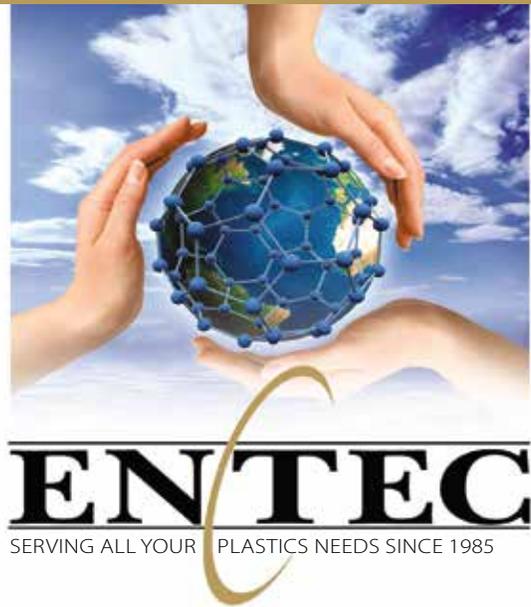
Next Gen – Furkan Akdemir, Maheen Khan and Dr. Laura Shereda

Finally, I would like to thank my dear friend and UMass-Lowell Alumni Mr. Peter Grelle for his leadership, knowledge and expertise that he has shared with the board and our members over the past 15 months. Pete's commitment to SPE is contagious and has brought about many positive changes to our organization.

I look forward to a fantastic year,

Sassan Tarahomi
President SPE Detroit Section

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Coming Events

September 15, 2014
Detroit Section
Fall Kick-off Meeting
Eastern Michigan
University
<http://www.spedetroit.com>

October 5 - 8, 2014
16th Annual
SPE Auto-TPO
Conference
Troy Marriott
<http://www.auto-tpo.com>

Letter from the Editor

Dr. Gary J. Kogowski



Dear SPE Members,

I would like to highlight a few changes and additions to the SPE Trends and Topics newsletter beginning with the September 2014 edition.

1. The SPE Detroit Section newsletter will begin all digital distribution. Printed copies of the newsletter will no longer be distributed. If you require a low resolution copy of the newsletter, please contact either Chris Surbrook at csurbrook@midlandcompounding.com or Karen Rhodes Parker at karen@spedetroit.com.
2. We are near the time for the global TPO conference. Please enjoy the article in this month's newsletter by Bill Windschief, TPO Committee Chairperson.
3. With each edition on the newsletter, one of our board members or committee chair members will provide an autobiography. This month's article will feature Dr. Adrian Merrington.
4. This edition will include an article from Chase Plastics highlighting their student internship program.
5. The newsletter will feature a summary from our late spring events, the 2014 SPE AutoEPCON and the 2014 Turner Alfrey conference.
6. Our first SPE Detroit Section technical dinner meeting will be held at Eastern Michigan University on Monday, September 15, 2014.

Dr. Gary J. Kogowski



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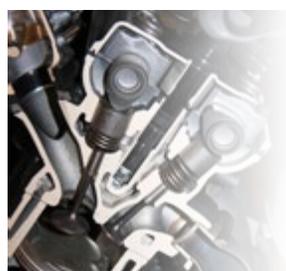
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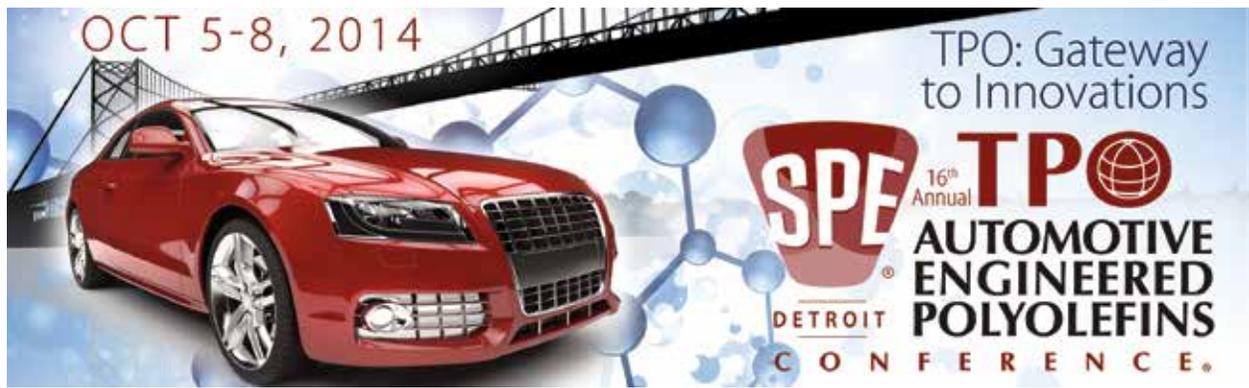
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DON'T MISS THE 16TH-ANNUAL SPE AUTO TPO CONFERENCE

RECORD SPONSORSHIP/EXHIBITS, PRESENTATIONS, ATTENDANCE SHOWCASES IMPORTANCE OF ENGINEERED POLYOLEFIN MATERIALS



Bill Windscheif
Advanced Innovative Solutions, Ltd.

The 16th-annual *SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference* (Auto TPO) returns on Monday, Oct. 6th and runs for 2-1/2 days (with exhibitor reception and set up on Sunday evening, Oct. 5th) at the Troy Marriott in the Detroit Suburbs.

This year's program "*TPO: Gateway to Innovation,*" promises to set all kinds of records with the largest sponsorship/exhibition in the event's history, a professional technical program highlighting the latest global developments in TPO and engineered polyolefins materials (over 60 presentations), and with record attendance forecast. We also have five interesting keynote speakers who were

specially selected to help put the often contradictory trends reshaping our changing industry in perspective:

- **John Sousanis**, director-Information Content & Presentation, WardsAuto.com: *Fuel Economy: Getting to 2025 as Efficiently as Possible*
- **Kurt Aerts**, vice-president, global supply chain at ExxonMobil Chemical Co.: *The Changing Role of North America in Global Chemical Production Due to Shale Gas*
- **Bart Bowser**, global product and asset director, Dow Elastomers, Electrical & Telecommunications, at The Dow Chemical Co.: *North America Plastics Industry Revival Fueled by Shale Gas*
- **Sergey Vasnetsov**, senior vice-president, Strategic Planning & Transactions, Global Polypropylene Compounds, LyondellBasell: *Materials Innovation — What it Takes to Meet the Current & Future Demands of the Global Automotive Market*
- **Doug Pickett**, engineering group manager - Product Development at General Motors Co.: *Future Trends in Vehicle Efficiency — An Opportunity or Challenge to Future Growth of TPOs in Vehicle Interiors*



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. The event has become **the world's leading automotive engineered polyolefins forum** and typically draws over 700 key decision makers and some of the world's foremost authorities on transportation polyolefin applications, economics, and market trends, from 20 countries on four continents who are interested in learning about the latest in rigid and elastomeric TPO as well as TPE and TPV technologies. As such, it 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.

To make sure you have a seat at this year's conference. Reregister at the TPO Conference website <http://www.auto-tpo.com> or call Karen Rhodes-Parker at 248-244-8993 Ext. 3



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SPE Detroit Section Technical Program Plastics Program at Eastern Michigan University

Date: Monday, September 15, 2014

Time: 5:00 – 9:00 PM

Location: Eastern Michigan University
Student Center, Grand Ball Room
900 Oakwood Drive
Ypsilanti, MI 48197
Ph: (734) 487-4108

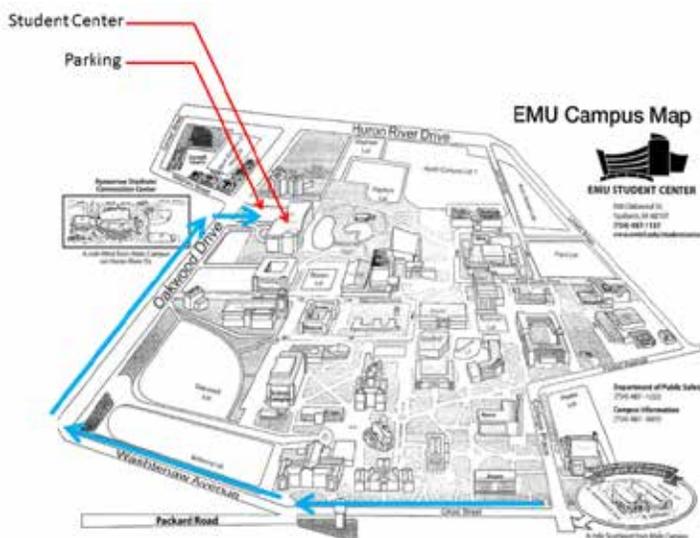
Agenda:

- | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| - Arrival, appetizer & refreshment | | 5:00 PM |
| - Welcome remarks | Dr. Sassan Tarahomi | 5:55 PM |
| - Dinner (Buffet) | | 6:00 PM |
| - 2014-2015 President’s speech | Dr. Sassan Tarahomi | 6:30 PM |
| - Outstanding member award introduction | Nippani Rao | 6:45 PM |
| - Past President Award | Dr. Sassan Tarahomi | 7:00 PM |
| - Presentation “Plastics Program at EMU” | Dr. Texter | 7:15 PM |
| - Tour of school Plastics Testing lab | Dr. Texter | 8:00 PM |
| - Program Ends | | 9:00 PM |

Cost: Table of 8 \$500, One Seat \$100, Students Free

Program Topic: Plastics Program at Eastern Michigan University

Please RSVP with Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at Karen@spedetroit.com or call at 248-244-8993 Ext. 3



Directions

I-94 to Exit 183 Huron Street.
Take exit 183 for Huron St toward Ypsilanti 0.3 mi
Turn right (GO NORTH) onto S. Huron St for 1.0 mi
Turn left onto W Cross St 0.7 mi
Continue straight onto Washtenaw Ave 0.1 mi
Turn right onto Oakwood St
Destination will be on the right

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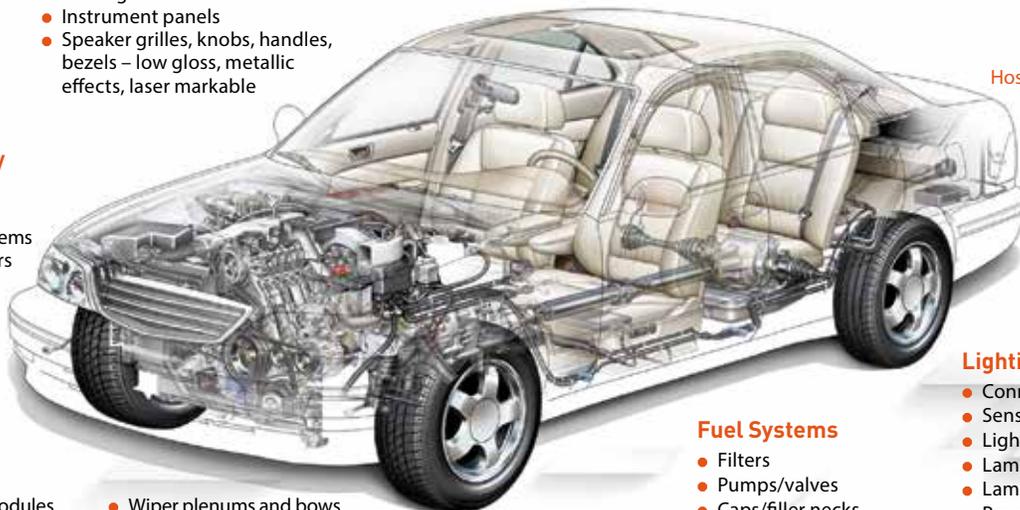
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SPE Detroit Section Presents Awards for 2013-2014

The SPE Detroit Section presented its awards for 2013-2014 during its meeting on Monday June 23rd. The following individuals were recognized.

Lifetime Achievement Award

This award, conceived in 2004, recognizes distinguished SPE members. These members had outstanding careers in the plastics industry and made significant contributions to the science of plastics engineering and growth of plastics and the SPE Detroit Section. Previous recipients include Larry Kushkin, Robert Williams, Irv Poston, Ron Price, Norm Kakarala, Don Root, John Haas, Tom Powers, and Nippani Rao.

Joining this group of recipients in 2013-2014 is Mr. Bill Windscheif. Bill has been and continues to be a very active member of the SPE Detroit Section. For many years, Bill has been the Conference Chairperson and Co-Chair for the SPE Detroit Section TPO Conference. Through his leadership, Bill has made this conference one of the most successful conferences for SPE International.



Outstanding Achievement Award

Sandra McClelland was the recipient of the Outstanding Achievement Award for her work leading the Education Committee. This past year, Sandra has built and strengthened relationships between the SPE Detroit Section and colleges and universities in the Detroit and Mid-Michigan areas including Michigan State University, Kettering University, and Ferris State University. In addition to her efforts in education, she has, for several years, taken on the role of Conference Co-Chair for the very successful SPE AutoEPCON.

Special Recognition Award

Mr. Gary Kogowski was presented with the Special Recognition Award for all his outstanding work as Newsletter Editor for the Detroit Section Newsletter, as Secretary for the Detroit Section, and as Conference Co-Chairperson for the very successful SPE AutoEPCON Conference.



Individual Star Awards

Two (2) individuals were presented with SPE Detroit Section Star Awards for their contributions to several key programs over the past year.

Mr. Chris Surbrook was presented with the Star Award for his successful leadership of the 2014 SPE Detroit Section Material Auction. Under Chris's leadership, the 2014 Material Auction was one of the most successful auctions held within the last four (4) years. This event raises funds scholarships and education programs for students pursuing a career in the plastics industry.

Ms. Dawn Cooper was also a recipient of the Star Award for her leadership in the annual Toys for Kids programs. Under Dawn's leadership, material s was procured and toys were produced. These toys were distributed as far away as the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. This year, this program was publicized in Plastics News and at the SPE Annual Technical Conference (ANTEC< in Las Vegas, NV.



Please join me in congratulating all award recipients recognizing their contributions to the success of the SPE Detroit Section.



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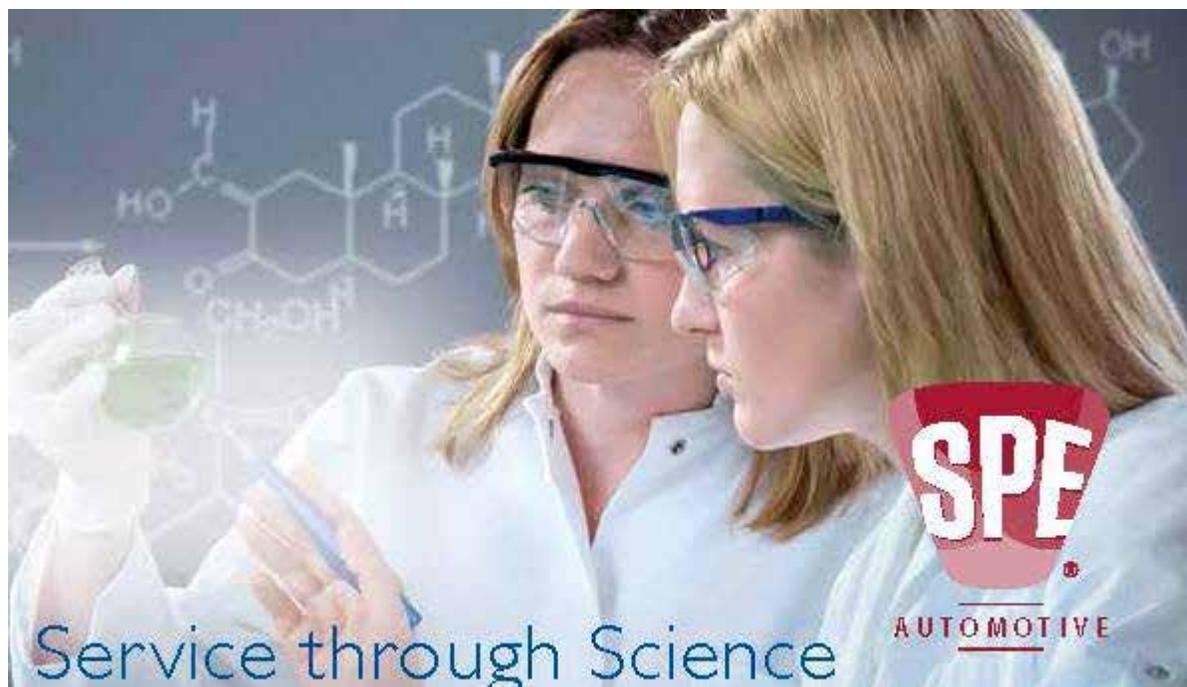
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Service through Science: Adrian Merrington explains why he became a Chemist



You can't get there from here may be the punch line to many a logistics joke, but it also accurately describes the career path I have spent my life meandering through.

From as far back as I can remember, I always wanted to be a scientist $\frac{3}{4}$ well, with the exception of a brief period when I considered a career in law enforcement, but more on that later. I remember reading *Professor Branestawm* books as a very-young child. The Professor was an absent minded scientist who invented all kinds of strange and wonderful things that even worked on occasion. I remember thinking that *that* was what I wanted to be, but of course, at that age, I had no concept of what becoming a scientist actually involved.

I received all of my education in England. I grew up in the City of Leeds, a large, northern industrial town filled with friendly people who all have an opinion on everything that they're willing to share (even if you don't ask them). I went to the Leeds Grammar School where I was blessed to be taught chemistry by a wonderfully colorful Irish teacher called Mr. Brown. We made boats out of sodium. We experimented with chlorine gas (a special treat given that Mr. Brown was allergic to chlorine). We would disappear to the range to test projectile fuelants. And we were always free to ask whatever questions we wanted, even if getting answers meant throwing Mr. Brown's work plan for the day out of the window. I think more than anyone else, his influence steered me towards the decision to study Chemistry at university.

For some reason that is entirely lost to me now, I had convinced myself that I wanted to be an analytical chemist. There were only five such programs in all of the UK at the time I was looking at colleges. I applied and was accepted to all of them. I ended up studying Applied Chemistry,

which had that strong analytical chemistry backbone I thought I wanted, at the University of Greenwich (formerly Thames Polytechnic). The fact that the University of Greenwich was in London played high on my desire to study there as I chose the city rather than the school.

I discovered pretty quickly that I really, *really* disliked analytical chemistry and that there was no way that I wanted to be an analytical chemist when I graduated. When one is accepted to study a course of chemistry at an English university, you study that course at the university selected. The British system at that time was far less flexible than the American system. Because I had been accepted into the chemistry program, that's where my grant (scholarship) was sent and that was where I was expected to be. What I did have though was the option to take a course that was heavier in the biological sciences or in the materials sciences. I strongly disliked biology (even more than analytical chemistry) so I opted for materials science by default. This *choice* turned out to be fortuitous. Looking back at it now, if I had known that *materials science* courses even existed I think that that would have been the subject I would have studied. Still, there was enough materials science in my chemistry course that I stayed interested. Materials science classes consisted of a few classes in metals, but most were in polymers. This was my first introduction to plastics.

Not feeling like *Forrest Gump* at all, after four years in London playing football, they gave me an honors degree in Applied Chemistry. Some might think sports a distraction from getting an education but I found the discipline required to compete and still maintain good grades really helped me to focus. Of course, the university sports system in the U.K. is not as *professional* as it is in the U.S. so maybe my experience wouldn't transfer to students over here. In addition to spending a lot of time playing (American) football for the college team, I earned money working weekend evenings as a bouncer at a punk night club (and yes, it was as much fun as it sounds). Both of these activities somehow prompted me towards the decision to follow a career into law enforcement. My grandfather had been, and my cousins were in the police and I was quickly accepted into the accelerated program with the prestigious City of London Police Force. I had been measured for my officer's suit, was a week from going back to London to start my career and had every intention of making that my life.

And then I didn't.

I was sat in my parents' kitchen very late one night reading a section I never read (the *Want Ads*) in a paper I rarely read (my dad's *Yorkshire Evening Post*) and I saw an advertisement from the University of Bradford indicating the school was looking for graduate students with a background in plastics. This, as they say, was a life-changing moment. I had not even considered the possibility of going to graduate school but thought I'd look into the opportunity. I met with Professor Les Woodcock (who would eventually be my advisor) and Professor Barry Harness (my mentor) and they offered me a full-ride scholarship on the spot.

The thing that differentiated an undergraduate degree in Applied Chemistry from one in Chemistry at the University of Greenwich was the requirement that you spend a year in industry. I spent my third year as an undergraduate working for a contact lens manufacturer (CLM) in Redhill. If you've ever flown into Gatwick Airport, Redhill is the next stop north on the way into London's Victoria train station. I got a great deal out of my time at CLM and left with two important pieces of knowledge: first, I liked working with plastics and second, if I ever wanted to perform my own research, I needed more than a Bachelor's degree. It was armed with this background information that I accepted the professors' offer.

I entered the Department of Chemical Engineering at the University of Bradford to perform research on the synthesis and rheology of polymer colloids. I was also part of the Chemistry department under Professor Tony Johnson (a second mentor) and part of the Interdisciplinary Research Center (IRC) for Polymers (now Polymer Engineering). This was a phenomenal opportunity for me and I really grasped at everything that was on offer. Professor Woodcock also arranged for me to receive a Unilever Student stipend so I had some industrial interactions through collaboration with the ever-enthusiastic Dr. Alex Lipps. All three professors and Dr. Lipps were outstanding people whose focus was entirely upon the success of their students and I was truly blessed to work with each of them.

Amongst the many, many benefits in the graduate school program were the availability of travel bursaries (stipends) and I seemed to be the only student interested in taking advantage of them. These bursaries paid for me to attend a conference on *surface forces* in Moscow (imagine trying to explain *that* to British customs as this was before *glasnost* and *perestroika* after all) and a conference on *multiphase systems* in Portland, Oregon in the U.S. I realized what great opportunities these were. I had already represented Great Britain playing American football against Australia and had been invited to trials for the upcoming European Championship squad. I made the conscious decision to not pursue the sports opportunity and instead took the Oregon trail (pun definitely intended).

It was the enjoyment of this visit to Oregon that later led me to seek an opportunity to perform post-doctoral research in the U.S. after my second graduation. I had a number of offers but chose to move to Midland, Michigan and the Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI) to work with Professor Dale Meier. I chose MMI because the project seemed to be the most interesting amongst those that I was offered. I was a little hesitant over moving to mid-Michigan at first as I had only lived in big cities and Midland is a small town. I convinced myself that it wouldn't be *too bad* after looking at a map and, mistaking kilometers for miles, thought Chicago was only a couple of hours away. This turned out to be a happy mistake seeing as I've lived in Midland for 21 years now.

I spent a couple of years continuing to work in the area of colloid rheology when the opportunity to work as part of a team funded by a U.S. National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) Advanced Technology Program(ATP) on Plastics Recycling. The ATP looked at recycling mixed, post-consumer plastics and my focus was to be on the interfaces and compatibility of multiphase systems. There was a connection to the work I'd been doing before but as much as anything, I decided to move into plastics recycling because I was fed up with seeing the glazed look that appeared on the faces of family and friends when I mentioned the words *colloid rheology* (see, you're doing it too!). As part of the recycling team, I had the opportunity to work with the late Connie Balazs and Lowell Thomas, both of whom had strong industrial backgrounds $\frac{3}{4}$ something I still felt I needed to develop.

That initial work in recycling helped me gain knowledge in plastics (as opposed to polymers), composites, additives, compounding, processing and, more recently, sustainable materials. I've led or been part of many industry- and government-sponsored programs with these foci (a number of which are highlighted at www.adrianmerrington.com). I've used the knowledge I've garnered as source for chapters for books and encyclopedias, numerous papers, and proprietary reports I've written, and presentations I've given all over the world. I've also had the opportunity to garner industrial experience with spells as research director at American Commodities, Inc. and Resource Recycling of Western Michigan, and now as chief technology officer for Eco Bio Plastics Midland. I've furthered my academic accomplishments as an adjunct professor with Central Michigan University.

Another thing for which I owe the late Connie Balazs thanks is that he insisted I join and be active in the Society of Plastics Engineers. He was on the mid-Michigan board, which I also joined. Since joining, I think I've been active taking every board role except those of treasurer and organizing the golf outing, having neither a taste nor a talent for either. I'm also active, due to my recycling background, in the Plastics Environmental Division acting as technical chair for half a decade now. Working with the SPE has opened many doors for me and has led to developing some life-long friendships. Now that the Mid-Michigan Section has merged with the Detroit Section of SPE, I'm continuing my service as first vice-president of the Detroit Section.

So, if I was to share the most useful things I've learnt along the way, they would be to: take opportunities as they appear; learn from those willing to share; don't be afraid of change; don't be too tied to your own decisions; have lots of fun; and remember to read the want ads every now and again as you never know what opportunity lies there-in.



About Dr. Adrian Merrington

Dr. Adrian Merrington is a senior associate scientist and assistant professor at Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI) and chief technical officer for Eco Bio Plastics Midland (EBPM), an MMI partnership with Eco Research Institute (ERI). He is a chartered chemist and a chartered scientist. He has been with MMI since 1992 when he joined as a visiting scientist and postdoctoral fellow after completion of his Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering at the University of Bradford (England, U.K.). He is heavily involved in the plastics industry and has been a collaborator and principal investigator on a number of programs in the areas of composites, additives, blends, plastics, inorganic fillers, rheology, colloids, and particulates, plastics recycling, and fuel cells. His achievements in these projects have led to publishing 2 book chapters, 39 publications or presentations, numerous proprietary reports, and a listing in Who's Who in Plastics.

Chase Plastics- Redefining Resin Distribution and More

By: Claire Davey

Chase Plastic Services, Inc., is a full-service stocking distributor of 6,400+ specialty, engineering and commodity thermoplastic resins. Founded by Kevin and Carole Chase in 1992, they have grown into a \$200 million dollar company, with the specific purpose of better servicing small, medium, and large sized applications with a no minimum quantity order policy. This is made possible by the 35+ warehouse locations across the United States and Canada. When speaking in terms of national distributors, with both domestic and global suppliers, they are the smallest of the biggest; but quicker and much more flexible. Their commitment to customer satisfaction is based on their outrageous service and is unmatched in the industry; they offer courteous 2-hour call backs, each with a sense of urgency regarding the customers every detail.

Not only is Chase redefining resin distribution in the services and products they provide and the way they treat their suppliers and customers, but also in their efforts to develop and train young professionals through their extensive and beneficial internship program. I had the fortunate opportunity to be a part of the program this summer.

Chase focuses on internal technical training and projects, offering lectures and lessons on scientific molding, polymer chemistry, different materials, and more. This helps sharpen current knowledge and skills for plastics students and teaches basic ideas to students with majors focused outside of the industry. The individual projects promote independence and self-structure, requiring discipline and hard work, both great qualities to strive for.

In addition, the interns have the chance to go through departmental training as well, learning the ins and outs of purchasing, customer service, materials inventory management, sales administration, etc. This process helps the interns understand and become familiar with the way the company works as a whole, not just one single department. A trip to the main warehouse in South Bend, IN, familiarizes the students with warehouse operations and freight logistics as well.

Believe it or not, it doesn't end there! One of the most beneficial parts of the program was traveling across the Midwest with sales associates and account managers to customers, prospects, and suppliers. Observing and partaking in those experiences produce real-life understanding and expectations of what the daily responsibilities are for a sales person and how to dominate in that role.

Powered by a dynamic team of individuals willing to assist and answer questions whenever they can, Chase has revamped their intern program into a well-oiled machine. I now feel very prepared and confident in my ability to succeed in the plastics business thanks to my experiences this summer. Internships are essential in the ability for students to obtain real world familiarities and find where they fit within the industry; Chase Plastics is redefining that experience for young plastics professionals!



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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.

5 reasons to be in Windsor on Oct. 23

1. See the latest technologies in moldmaking components, hot runners, CAD/CAM/CAE, 3D printing, plastics auxiliary equipment, quality control, metalworking equipment, and more.
2. Hear automotive market intelligence from dinner speaker Laurie Harbour and luncheon speaker Dennis DesRosiers.
3. Attend seminars.
4. Talk with experts who know their stuff.
5. Network with your peers.



Windsor MOLD EXPO



METALWORKING MANUFACTURING & PRODUCTION EXPO

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Organized by Canadian Plastics & Canadian Metalworking magazines.
Endorsed by CAMM and APMA.

Registration for the show is free, but please pre-register at
www.windsormoldexpo.com



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

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

Schedules for this school year visits are being made now.



AUTOMOTIVE PLASTICS News



9th-annual **AUTO EPCON** *Recap*

JUNE 2014
VOLUME 43, ISSUE 4

A Record 2014 SPE® AutoEPCON by Terrence Q. Cressy and Dr. Gary J. Kogowski

The ninth-annual SPE AutoEPCON, held on Tuesday, May 6th at Michigan State University's Management Education Center (MEC) in Troy (Detroit), Michigan USA, set records for registered attendance (270), number of presentations (27 regular technical talks plus four executive keynotes), and sponsorship support (33 sponsors, 22 of which also exhibited).

Pete Grelle, president of the SPE Detroit Section called the conference an outstanding event in every respect. This year's efforts were led by Kathy Minnich of Ford Motor Co., who served as executive chair, and the organizing committee headed by co-chairs, Gary Kogowski and Sandra McClelland. "The conference is the only one of its kind focused on engineering plastics and the issues that propel and challenge plastics industry growth," Grelle added. "The conference proceeds will make a big impact on the educational programs of both SPE's Detroit Section and Automotive Division."





AutoEPCON CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

This year's we had five technical sessions: New Materials, Lighting for LEDs and Laser Marking, the Plastics Industry Automotive Roadmap, Advanced Material Applications for Powertrain and e-Mobility, and Bio-based and Recycled Resin Advances in Engineering Materials. For a second year, session moderators were students from local universities (Kettering University, Michigan State University, Saginaw Valley, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and the University of Michigan) with the participation of SPE board member mentors.

A highlight of this year's conference was the four executive keynote addresses. The morning lead-off presentation was by Eric Fedewa, director, Global Component Forecasts and Analysis, I H S Automotive. His presentation moved from the outlook for 18-million unit vehicle production in North America to the possibility of 100-million units a year worldwide in the not-too-distant future. He discussed the progress toward autonomous (self-driven) vehicles, and energy landscapes with diesel and electric propulsion in the lead to the possibility of gasoline being viewed one day as a useless refinery by-product.

Dr. Ashish Kulkarni, chief innovation officer for Celanese Corp., spoke of the paths of evolutionary and revolutionary growth and innovation in engineering plastics, only limited by what's possible from utilizing the full periodic table of the elements.

Dr. Bob Powell, technical fellow and lab manager of the General Motors Co's Battery Systems Group addressed "Automotive Lightweighting - Now More than Ever." He sees concurrent use of fossil fuels and alternative propulsion such as for electric vehicles (EVs) and fuel-cell vehicles. He pointed out that each technology faces challenges, including increased mass from battery packs that can range from 400 lb (181 kg) for the *Chevy Volt* to 600-1,200 lb (272-544 kg) for current battery EVs (BEVs).

Ankil Shah, general manager for materials engineering, Toyota Engineering and Manufacturing - North America, traced the development and reasoning for increased use of plastics in automobiles, "Past, Present and Future." He noted that plastics have increased to 10 percent of average vehicle weight, while steel has declined in recent years. He challenged thermoset suppliers to work on improving manufacturing cycle times (carbon fiber composites) and for thermoplastic resin suppliers to continue efforts to reduce part creep and stress relaxation as well as improve performance at very-high heat-aging temperatures.

Kathy Minnich encouraged attendance, sponsorship, and technical presentation development efforts for future conferences. "We all have time and resource limitations," she added, "but the investment of extra time and effort is well worth it in building a broader perspective to understand and tackle future industry challenges."

The 2014 SPE AutoEPCON conference committee would like to thank each of the conference speakers, presenters, attendees, and those companies who sponsored the event. We look forward to seeing you at the 2015 SPE AutoEPCON conference.



Report on 2014 Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor (TAVP) Program

Steve Keinath, Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI),
SPE Board Member and TAVP Program Coordinator

August 14, 2014

Prof. Axel Mueller was in residence at the Michigan Molecular Institute (MMI) and in the greater Midland area from Monday, June 9, through Wednesday, June 18. During this period of time, he gave a 15-hour series of course lectures, titled "Complex Polymer and Hybrid Architectures". He also participated in a joint technical society dinner meeting and gave an after dinner talk, titled "A Zoo and Garden of Nanoparticles: Tales of Worms, Caterpillars, Bamboo, and Clover". In addition, Prof. Mueller participated in several TAVP co-sponsor site visits and gave additional stand-alone seminars at Dow Chemical Company, Dow Corning Corporation, Central Michigan University, Michigan State University, and Saginaw Valley State University.

The first two days of the course lectures (Complex Polymer and Hybrid Architectures) covered polymerization fundamentals and defined practical, commercial approaches, setting the stage for the last three days where Prof. Mueller showed some very inspiring and unique organic polymer and inorganic/organic polymer hybrid systems made possible by using well-known polymerization strategies, but with a few added tricks. Course attendee comments indicated that Prof. Mueller gave a very good series of lectures, he was well-organized and had very thoroughly developed course materials. Although there wasn't too much Q&A the first couple of days this turned around dramatically the last three days of the course lectures when his university research career's inspiring new ideas poured forth.

MMI saw about 70 on site registered course attendees during the course lecture week comprised of the following approximate breakdown:

35	Dow Chemical Company
13	Dow Corning Corporation
13	Michigan Molecular Insittute
9	Central Michigan University

In addition, about another dozen course participants joined in via a live teleconference connection, comprised of the following approximate breakdown:

8-10	Michigan State University (faculty and graduate students)
3-4	Dow (Pennsylvania)
1-2	Dow (Europe)

Plans for Kettering University faculty and student TAVP course participation fell short this year because the TAVP course lecture week exactly overlapped with Kettering's end of semester final exam week, which meant that most to all of a potential Kettering audience was pretty much preoccupied and distracted that week.

The joint technical society dinner meeting proved to be a very successful event, too. In addition to enjoying a good meal catered by Northwood University and another very interesting presentation by Prof. Axel Mueller, there was ample time available for personal networking as well. Thirty-five attendees turned out for the dinner meeting, with about half of the audience being ACS members. The specific dinner meeting attendance breakdown was as follows:

- 18 American Chemical Society (ACS)
- 6 Mid-Michigan Technicians Group (MMTG)
- 5 Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE)
- 3 American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)
- 2 Guests (non-affiliated)
- 1 Student (Central Michigan University)

Again, the comments coming forth from the dinner meeting attendees indicated that they viewed Prof. Mueller as a very good presenter with a good and very interesting after dinner talk topic. Prof. Mueller presented for about an hour that evening, highlighting in a not so technical manner the usefulness of known controlled polymerization approaches to create nature-inspired structures for some very unique and specialized applications. His talk was followed by about 15 minutes of a very active Q&A dialogue session, another indicator of the high level of interest the audience held for his presentation that evening.

All in all, the 2014 TAVP program was once again very successful. MMI appreciates the financial support lent by the Detroit Section of the SPE, one of eight co-sponsoring organizations that help underwrite this outstanding, continuing program. Thank you.



Our **QR Code** takes you to our website www.SPEdetroit.com where you will find our Newsletters, News Briefs, Upcoming Events, Scholarships, Essay Contest, PlastiVan, Photos, and info on other Detroit Section activities.



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2014-2015 Technical Program Report

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, IAC Group

Dear SPE Detroit Section members, fall is upon us and as in the past we need to tell you about all the exciting programs we have planned for you this year. We have many great activities lined-up for you. The good thing is you haven't missed any and this would be a great time to add the events to your calendar. We have been trying very hard to offer most of the activities to our members and students for free and only charge \$10 for non members to encourage them to sign-up for SPE. This is due to generosity of the host companies providing the event to the Detroit Section at no charge. We appreciate this kindness and recognize the host companies for their time and effort to provide such great TDM, Plant or facility tour for our members and we present them with an appreciation plaque at the end of the event. Our Fall TDM, TPO Conference, Auto EPCON and Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor Program and TDM are among our top programs that are supported by many sponsors including our very own Detroit Section. We do recognize these sponsors all through-out the events and work very hard to make sure they continue their support for these exceptional educational programs for many more years.

We have nine superb events planned for this year as listed in the table here. First, you should mark your calendar and second, a month before the event you must pre-register by sending an email to Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at karen@spedetroit.com.

#	Date	Event	Location
1	September 15, 2014	Fall Kick-off TDM / Plastics Program at EMU	Eastern Michigan University
2	October 6 - 8 , 2014	2014 TPO Conference	Detroit Marriott -Troy
3	October 20, 2014	TDM / How to Attract Next Generation of Engineers to SPE	Best Western, Sterlings Inn Sterling Heights, MI
4	February 23, 2015	TDM & Plant Tour Intelicosting	Intellicosting Plant Troy
5	March 16, 2015	TDM / Plastics Program at MMCC	Mid Michigan Community College
6	May 5, 2015	2015 Auto EPCON	Detroit Marriott -Troy
7	May 11, 2015	TDM & Plant Tour	HiTech Tool
8	June 2015	Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor Program	Michigan Molecular Institute Midland, MI 48640
9	June 2015	Technical Dinner Meeting	Michigan Molecular Institute Midland, MI 48640

We are including more detail for the September 15, Oct 5 TPO Conference and October 20 event in this Newsletter for your reference. Detail for other events will be in the upcoming newsletter, News brief, email blast, twitter and linked-in.

We are including more detail for the September 15, October 6 TPO Conference and October 20 event in this Newsletter for your reference. Detail for other events will be in the upcoming newsletter, News brief, email blast, twitter and linked-in.

My dear friend Bob Petrach has offered his help with the Technical Program Planning for the 2015 -2016 Calendar year. We are looking into many new places to visit. We encourage you to write and let us know about your ideas, places or topics you would want to visit or hear about. We would be glad to follow-up on your suggestion and make it happen. Our goal is to continuously improve our program offering and our task is to please our membership. We would do our best to make sure you are satisfied with the TDM and continue to be a great supported of SPE and the Detroit Section.

We hope to see many of you in the upcoming events.

Yours truly,

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi
Detroit SPE Technical Program Chair



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Election Results for Detroit Section Directors

The following new or continuing Directors were recently elected by Detroit Section members for the Term ending June 2017 as shown on the back page of this newsletter.



Marc Bahm has been actively involved with the SPE Detroit section for the past two years. He is the webmaster for the new SPE Detroit Section website (SPEDetroit.org) and the TPO Conference website (auto-TPO.com). He is also serving on the Golf Outing committee and the Material Auction committee. He has been in the automotive resin business in technical and commercial roles over the past twenty-two years. He is currently working for BASF as Technical Development Engineer. He is a graduate of Ferris State University and Lawrence Technological University. He has had consulting assignments at Chrysler and has done some manufactures representation for recycled resins.

Marc has grown up in the southeast Michigan area and is very proud to be a Michigander. He has been married 20 wonderful years and has two sons.



Terrence (Terry) Cressy joined DuPont in 1978 and served in a variety of executive marketing positions including the latest as executive account manager for General Motors in Troy, MI, where he led teams in applying more than 100 product lines, across the company, to GM needs. He retired in 2013 to pursue consulting assignments for DuPont and other concerns.

Terry has been a member of the Society of Plastics Engineers since 1987 and has served as Detroit Section Board secretary and co-founder and co-chair of SPE AutoEPCON for the past nine years. He has also been a longstanding member of the Society of Automotive Engineers. He has both bachelors of science and arts degrees from Syracuse University. A long term resident of Bloomfield Hills, MI, he and his wife currently reside in Fort Myers, FL. They have a daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren in Clawson, MI.



Wayne Hertlein has more than 35 years of experience in the plastics industry, and he currently works as a Program Manager for Wilbert Plastic Services in Troy, Michigan. He has previously held leadership positions within such organizations as MMI Engineered Solutions, International Automotive Components (IAC), Collins and Aikman Global Tooling Company (C&A), and Complete Prototype Services (CPS), among others in the Midwest.

Wayne is an SPE Honored Service Member and been a member of SPE since 1981. He has been a Director of the Detroit Section, and is currently the Intersociety Liaison and Bylaws committee for the section. He is also actively involved with the SPE Moldmaking & Mold Design Division.



Todd Hogan is a Research Scientist with the Dow Chemical Company. His primary responsibilities there include process system design and troubleshooting. He has also had responsibilities for product and application development for sheet extrusion and thermoforming, and he has led process development projects in support of new business opportunities.

Todd received his Bachelors of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1990 and Masters of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1995, both from GMI Engineering and Management Institute in Flint, MI. Todd and his wife reside in Midland with their two school age sons. He has been a member of SPE since joining the GMI (now Kettering) student chapter in 1988. He was actively involved in the Mid-Michigan Section of SPE over the last 25 years. He received the Outstanding Achievement award from the Mid Michigan Section in and was elected Honored Service Member of the Society.

He recently received the Detroit Section Outstanding Member Award.



Bill Windscheif is the President and founder of Advanced Innovative Solutions, Ltd. a specialty consulting company focused on polymer based materials, processes, design and marketing services. Prior to forming AIS, he was manager of the Automotive Business Unit for Flint Hills Resources (FHR), a large multinational chemical and plastics producer. Before joining FHR (predecessor Huntsman LLC) he held leadership positions at Basell's Advanced Polyolefins, Montell's Global Automotive, and a variety of management positions in the chemical and automotive industries over a 25-year period. He is Chairman Emeritus of the American Plastics Council (Automotive Business Unit), has been a member of Oakland University Plastics Advisory Board and the Kettering University Polymers Advisory Board. A graduate of General Motors Institute (Kettering University) in Flint,

MI, he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering. He is a member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, the American Society of Body Engineers, and the Society of Plastics Engineers (for over 30 years). He has been married to his wife Martha for 44 years they have two children and four grandchildren.

Detroit Section Councilor for SPE International



Sandra McClelland is currently the Detroit Section Councilor and is eligible for re-election next Spring for a second 3-year term (ANTEC 2015 to ANTEC 2018). Sandra, as a member of SPE for many years, has held various positions in the Detroit Section including Secretary, Material Auction Chairman, President, and Newsletter Editor. Sandra has worked with both Automation Alley and SAE to promote plastics. In addition to Councilor, she is currently Chair of the Education Committee, Co-chair of the AutoEPCON, and a member of the SPE Foundation.

Sandra is a graduate of Purdue University with a degree in Chemistry. She is currently Transportation Market Development Manager at Chevron Phillips Chemical.

If you have suggestions for Councilor or Directors for the Term ending June 2018, please contact the Detroit Section Nominations Chair, Nippani Rao. If you yourself would like to be considered, please let Nippani know of your interest



Education Committee Update

Sandra McClelland
Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP

This is an exciting year for the Education Committee. The new organization is in place. We believe this organization will make the Education Committee more effective and should give us more emphasis on education. We have increased funding for our education initiatives and are including several new initiatives that will be rolled out to you in the near future.

Here is a listing of those functioning on the education committee and their roles. Their contact information is on the back page.

- PlastiVan – Tom Miller and Todd Hogan.
- Scholarships – Tom Miller and Adrian Merrington
- Student Chapters
- Michigan State University – Nippani Rao, Fred Deans
- Ferris State University – Tom Miller, Mike Wendt
- Kettering University – Steve Keinath
- Schoolcraft Community College – Sassan Tarahomi

This year one of the goals the education committee has is to increase the student members and the Young and Next Generation members. This is in line with a goal of SPE International to work with and increase the membership in this demographic. We are having a membership drive this fall for student members with a reduced rate for membership.

Expanding the outreach of the PlastiVan is another one of the goals. The SPE Foundation is working to train new people for working with the schools. The first two of these are in the Detroit area so we will have new instructors working with the schools in the Detroit Section. The largest area of school visits in North America is in the Detroit metro area and overall Michigan has the most visits. The addition on new people who can instruct at the schools will allow Margie Weiner, the current PlastiVan instructor, to work to expand the program in other areas. If you would like to propose a visit of the PlastiVan to your Middle School or High School please contact Tom Miller or Todd Hogan. Todd covers the northern part of the Detroit Section from Flint North and Tom Miller covers the Southern Section of the Detroit Section. We are looking to expand to new schools this year so please reach out to them with suggestions.

We are once again having the newsletter contest for the student chapters this year. The winning student chapter will get a dinner for the student chapter members at a local restaurant. Last year's winner was Ferris State University and they are planning their dinner. You will see articles from the student chapters in the newsletters. If you have suggestions of topics you would like the student chapters to report on please let us know and we will communicate that to them.

We are all excited and looking forward to improving and expanding our education initiatives this year. If you have any suggestions, please contact me or anyone on the education committee.

2015 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 that you would like to nominate for the 2014-2015 school year.

SPE Detroit Section North

Todd Hogan – Contest Chair
The Dow Chemical Company
South Saginaw Road
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



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Society of Plastics Engineers – Detroit

2015 "Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest

The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) presents the 19th annual “Wonders of Plastics” essay contest. Open to all middle/junior high and high school students, the essay must meet certain requirements (see *Requirements for Submission*, p 2).

Topics to consider

Advantages of plastics in food packaging
Creative use of recycled plastics
How plastics benefit humankind
How plastics improve our lifestyle

Plastics in the environment
Plastics usefulness in society
What plastics has done for me
Why the bad reputation of plastics is wrong

All essay submissions must be received at the SPE Section address, listed below, along with the entry form, by the announced deadline.

Awards for 1st – 3rd Place Entries from BOTH Sections

1st Place: \$500 In addition, winning entries from the North and South sections will be published in the Detroit Section Newsletter.

2nd Place: \$250

3rd Place: \$100

Entry forms may be copied, but each essay must be attached to a form; essays will not be returned and become the property of SPE.

Submit your Essays to:

SPE Detroit Section North

Todd Hogan – Contest Chair
The Dow Chemical Company
South Saginaw Road
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

All entries must be received by January 31, 2015!

REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

General

- Length: Between 500 and 1,000 words
- Format: Typewritten in English on 8 ½ x 11 paper (for North America), title to appear as heading on each page; no name on any page except the entry form that must accompany each essay; 1-inch margins minimum on all sides

Organization

The organization structure of the essay should be “logical,” including the following considerations:

- Introduction: Optional
- Thesis: Several sentences
- Development: This section should be several paragraphs and should discuss the theme, analyze it, feature informal research about the theme, etc.
- Conclusion: This section should be at least one paragraph in which the author summarizes the ideas presented in the essay

Mechanics

Spelling should be correct; syntax should be readable; punctuation should be conventional. Essay should be free of sentence fragments. Diction (word choice) should be appropriate to the subject and the writer’s understanding of the topic. Point of view should be appropriate to the topic/subject and remain constant and consistent. A mixture of first and third person is acceptable if it is appropriate to the voice of the essay. However, the use of second person (“you” either stated directly or implied) will change the “voice” of the essay in a manner damaging to its effectiveness. Footnotes and references must be included when necessary.

Judging

A panel consisting of 3 judges will judge essays. In order to be a finalist, the essay must meet all the conditions as stated in the organization and mechanics above, with only incidental errors in mechanics. It must meet the assigned minimum length and must be submitted following the prescribed format.

ENTRY FORM

Title: _____

By: _____

type or print

about the author(s)

Name(s) _____ age _____

_____ age _____

Grade in School _____

Address(es) _____

Phone Number(s) _____

E-mail(s) _____

about the school

School _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone/Fax _____

Teacher _____

Class _____

SPE Detroit Section North

Todd Hogan – Contest Chair

The Dow Chemical Company

South Saginaw Road

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

Entry must be received by January 31, 2015!

e-Communications

Irv Poston – General Motors (retired)

Keeping Informed

The Society of Plastics Engineers International and the SPE Detroit Section have established many communication tools to keep our members informed and up-to-date on the latest activities in the plastics industry.

SPE International Website – Hosted by SPE HQ

- Newly launched on www.4spe.org for navigation on PCs and mobile devices
- **Events** info on upcoming global SPE conferences and webinars
- **Membership** benefits, types, directory, and Salary Survey Results
- **Leadership** personnel, policies, awards, scholarships, grants, and PlastiVan
- **Resources** for news, library, research, consultants, insurance, jobs and careers
- **Communities** including all divisions and sections (navigate to Michigan-Detroit)
- **Search** for “Detroit” and find our past newsletters and activity photos

Detroit Section News Brief – Prepared by Irv Poston

- Eblasted by SPE HQ to members of the Detroit Section approximately monthly
- Announces and provides a link to our latest newsletter on the web
- Provides details and links for our upcoming events (such as the TPO Conference)
- Lists future SPE events in the Detroit area (such as the Automotive Awards Gala)
- Recognizes our sponsors and has hyperlinks to their websites (please use them)

Detroit Section Newsletter – Edited by Gary Kogowski

- Posted on the web for easy access for reading and printing by members and others
- Notification eblasted to members with a direct link to the posted newsletters
- Includes articles on upcoming and past meetings, essays, and competitions
- Features educational programs like student chapters and scholarships

Detroit Section Website – Maintained by Marc Bahm

- Newly launched on www.spedetroit.org for up-to-date local news and archives
- **Home Page** has Featured Events, Sponsor Logos, and easy navigation
- **About Us** gives activity summary, current officers and committees, and awards
- **Events** lists upcoming events for 2014-2015 with links for details
- **Newsletters & News Briefs** has the most recent editions for viewing and printing
- **Education/Scholarships** has application form, PlastiVan, and Student Chapters

Detroit Section Social Media– Postings by Adrian Merrington

- Postings on Detroit Section sites on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn
- Postings also on SPE International and Engineering Society of Detroit sites
- Links provided for additional information

Detroit Section Eblasts – Sent by Karen Rhodes-Parker

- Constant Contact news regarding meetings, conferences, and activities
- Evite invitations and responses for special events
- Announcement letters from committee chairmen about special activities

Smartphone Apps – News from SPE and the Plastics Industry

- **SPE Events** – Follow and customize the complete TPO Conference schedule, speakers, exhibitors, and more
- **SPE Mobile** – Tap for the SPE International website, News, and Industry Resources by Categories and showcases.
- **SPE Plastics Engineering Magazine** – Find, read, download, and search issues of the the past year (including the SPI Magazine).

Another free smartphone app is **Plastic Guide** and it is useful for having basic searchable information on common thermoplastics, abbreviations, trade names, processing methods, and typical applications.

There are some SPE members in the Detroit area that are not members of the Detroit Section and, therefore, our eblasts are not sent to them. There is also a large number of people in the plastics field that would benefit from membership in the Society. All of our members who receive our eblasts are encouraged to forward them to their friends and associates with a personal note to become a member of the SPE Detroit Section.

Please contact Irv Poston at ieposton@juno.com with any suggestions, comments, or questions about any aspect of e-communications.



Sponsor Advertising Guides

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

To reach our members, SPE publishes the newsletter in dual formats- to the mailbox and to the web. To ensure your advertisement looks great in both formats, please supply ads as two separate files for both print and web. Ads can be accepted in the following formats:

- Portable Document Files (PDF) preferred:
 - ▶ **For Print:** Press quality or higher resolution. Fonts must be embedded.
 - ▶ **For Web:** Smallest File Size or images at 96 DPI to 100 DPI. Fonts must be embedded.
- Photoshop .tif Files:
 - ▶ **For Print:** 175-300 DPI resolution, RGB color model.
 - ▶ **For Web:** 96-100 DPI resolution, RGB color model.
- JPG Files:
 - ▶ **For Print:** High to Maximum Resolution, RGB color model.
 - ▶ **For Web:** Low to Medium Resolution, RGB color model.
- Adobe InDesignCS 5 Files:
 - ▶ **For Print:** Packaged with fonts and external graphic files at 300 dpi or higher.
 - ▶ **For Web:** Files can be converted in-house to web content.

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 to determine if your format can be used.

Please contact: **Bob Petrach** at
238.618.6809 or 248.703.5995 or

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

Click on the Bookmark icon in the left-side Navigation Panel to go to specific places in the Newsletter.

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