spe DETROIT

TRENDS & TOPICS

DETROIT SECTION - SPE INSPIRING PLASTICS PROFESSIONALS - "THE CHARTER CHAPTER"

VOLUME 64 NUMBER 01 • FEBRUARY 2021

Nicola Sellis
Essay Contest Winner
1st – South

Samantha Thiessen
Future Leaders Scholar

Jacquline Willsie
Essay Contest Winner
1st – North

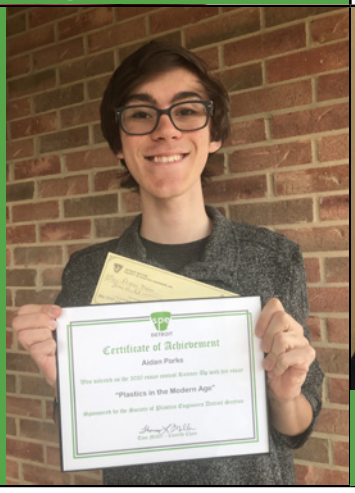
Chelsea Wright
Delta Polymers Scholar

The Future of Plastics

Detroit SPE continues to support plastics education in spite of COVID-19

Jillian Ulinski
Women to Watch Scholar

Aidan Parks
Essay Contest Winner
2nd – South



Jordan Howell
Reg Bell Scholar

Jack Kukulis
Essay Contest Winner
2nd – North

INSIDE: Read more about our scholars on page 13
Read the winning essays starting on page 5

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Laura Shereda, Asahi Kasei Plastics

Greetings Detroit Section!

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and healthy. Due to circumstances related to the virus, the person next in the line for Detroit Section presidency was unable to serve. So, it is my honor to continue serving as Detroit Section President for the 2020-2021 year. David Okonski (General Motors) is currently serving as the President Elect, and Neil Fuenmayor (Lyondell Basell) in the role of First Vice President, and Eve Vitale remains Past President.

2020 was a year unlike anything we have ever experienced. With COVID-19, it was a year of turmoil, change, innovation, and learning. As a group, the Detroit Section is learning to communicate and serve our members from a distance. In the coming months, the Detroit Section will unveil a dynamic new website to increase contact with our members. The website will provide scholarship information and applications, winning essay contest pieces, plastics resources, and much more. The website has been championed by board member, Rob Philp, with Sermeta, who also designed the new TPO website. We are also planning to schedule some virtual events. More information on these will follow.

The Detroit Section is known for its commitment to plastics education, and our commitment remains strong despite the pandemic. Because of revenue from highly successful conferences in previous years, the Detroit Section has the financial means to continue the same level of activity, even without incoming funds. I am pleased to say that the 2020-2021 education budget is the same as the 2019-2020 year. These funds make a significant difference to the students we serve. The Detroit Section recently granted over $60,000 in scholarships to several highly qualified students. The top four scholarship winners were recognized in a small, socially-distanced ceremony in October. We also have provided a $60,000 donation to the SPE Foundation to sponsor PlastiVideos, which is a new virtual version of PlastiVan. We have also budgeted the same amount of money as last year for PlastiVan visits. These contributions will have a long-lasting effect, and the videos can be used for many years to come to reach an even wider audience of students. The Detroit Section is proud to be the largest sponsor of PlastiVan.

The Coronavirus forced the cancelation of both the 2020 Auto EPCON conference and the 2020 TPO Conference. No one knows exactly what 2021 holds, however, we are hopeful that there will be some return to normalcy. Currently, both committees are meeting, and planning to hold live or hybrid events, which will be determined by what restrictions exist at the time of the conference.

Please continue to stay safe and well,

Laura Shereda

IN THIS ISSUE

NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS

Irv Poston, Chairman, General Motors (retired)

Since the publication of the January 2020 issue of the newsletter a lot has transpired! The COVID-19 virus caused cancellation of all in-person meetings through June 30, 2020 and has now been extended until such meetings are deemed safe. The SPE fiscal year began on July 1, 2020, and several virtual Zoom meetings have been held by the Board of Directors as well as the Executive Board. The August 26 Board Planning meeting confirmed the following voting leadership. Of course, non-voting Committee Chairs and Members also attend Board meetings.

15 Elected Voting Directors
2 Directors returned after resigning
4 Directors Emeritus
1 Councilor
5 Officers not listed above

Laura Shereda, President
Dave Okonski, President-Elect
Neil Fuenmayor, First Vice-President
Bob Petrach, Secretary
Tom Powers*, Treasurer (counted as Director Emeritus)
Eve Vitale, Past President

COUNCILOR'S REPORTS

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, SPE Detroit Section Councilor

A remote Council Meeting was held on April 27, 2020.

A moment of silence was held in honor of Larry Broutman, 1977–1978 SPE President who had passed away.

The SPE Finance Committee comprised of Jason McNulty, our own Sandra McClelland, Angela Rodenburgh, Jason Lyons, Brian Landes, Jaime Gomez, and Pat Farrey, gave a report on the 2019 year end finances of the Society. Due to improved market conditions our assets had increased by approximately 15% over 2018 and our revenue exceeded expenses.

President, Brian Landes reported that ANTEC San Antonio went completely virtual with great success! This was due to **leadership's** nimble and decisive ideation, design and construct of the opportunity. The **staff** pulled off the impossible in two weeks: organized, coordinated, positioned and implemented the first Virtual ANTEC. The **program committee** organized and delivered two unique experiences for knowledge sharing.

The **sponsors and exhibitors** demonstrated their commitment to SPE. The **speakers** preserved their time to participate and enrich both membership and attendees who are experiencing ANTEC for the first time. And **attendees** dedicated time to professional growth, knowledge sharing, teaching, and person networking safely.

Pat Farrey, CEO, gave special thanks for their support to the Vinyl Plastics Division, the Color and Appearance Division, the Decorating & Assembly Division, the Flexible Packaging Division, the Failure Analysis & Prevention, The Golden Gate Section, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Section, the Piedmont Coastal Section, the Thermoforming Division, Marcos Pantoja, and Monika Verheij.

There is a new **Open Access Journal of the Society of Plastics Engineers** called *SPE Polymers*. You can find out more about it here: https://www.4spe.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageid=5405

2020 SPE ESSAY CONTEST

The SPE Detroit Essay Contest had 22 entries this year divided into northern and southern regions. Members of the Education Committee, Todd Hogan and Tom Miller run the northern and southern contests, respectively. The northern essays came from Freeland High School, H.H. Dow High School, Midland High School, Bullock Creek Middle School and Jefferson Middle School. The southern essays came from South Lyon and South Lyon East High Schools and Baker Middle School. Judging was done by SPE Volunteers. If you'd like to volunteer for 2021's contest, please contact Tom Miller at TMiller@teknorapex.com or Todd Hogan at TAHogan@dow.com.

The 1st through 5th place winners are awarded cash prizes and given a certificate of achievement.

Southern Region Essay Winners

Name	School	Grade	Essay Title	Rank	Award
Nicola Sellis	South Lyon High	11	Plastics in Our Society	1st	$500
Aidan Parks	South Lyon East High	11	Plastics in the Modern Age	2nd	$300
Kshithi Kumara	Baker Middle School	7	The Pillars of Our Success	3rd	$200
Luke Lassan	South Lyon East High	10	A World of Plastics	4th	$100

Northern Region Essay Winners

Name	School	Grade	Essay Title	Rank	Award
Jacquiline Willsie	Freeland High	12	Beautiful Plastic – The Art of Reuse	1st	$500
Jack Kukulis	Freeland High	12	How Plastics Will Help Humankind Conquer Space	2nd	$300
Sarah Pell	Midland High	12	A Lifeline of Plastic	3rd	$200
Eric White	Midland High	9	Plastic Use for Humans and the Environment	4th	$100
Zailey Archbold	Jefferson Middle School	7	Effects of Plastic on Humankind	5th	$50

SOUTHERN REGION 1ST PLACE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Nicola Sellis, South Lyon High School

Plastics in Our Society

Throughout the 21st century, plastics have developed a negative reputation for doing nothing but ruining the environment. They are notoriously credited with polluting the oceans and killing marine life. However, the adaptability and durability of plastics provide immeasurable cost benefits to several industries and are utilized in the process of bringing these goods from manufacturer to the public. Plastics are also widely used for food, pharmaceutical and other consumer goods packaging. They can provide creative and eye-catching ways to generate market interest and consumer purchases, they can actually preserve the health-benefits and safety of food, and they are recyclable, thus limiting the negative impact on our environment and future conditions of planet health.

Plastics are particularly appreciated in the shipping and packaging phases of the supply chain because they allow manufacturers the ability to customize shape and size for more productive storage and shipping. With this customization ability, manufacturers can package goods in order to store and ship them more efficiently and effectively. For example, processes such as vacuum sealing compress the goods in plastic, making for a product package that takes up as little space as possible. This plastic packaging is extremely light-weight and space-smart, making possible and easy the storage of goods that have not yet been shipped. Moreover,

the space to store goods costs a company money and is a cost that is passed onto the customer, so maximizing the space that a product takes in storage is a cost-saving measure that benefits everyone.

When only a small amount of storage space is needed, an equally small amount of space is needed to transport the goods. And in some cases, vacuum sealing may be forgone in favor of the creation of special, customized packaging that allows for the goods to be organized in a way that makes packing and shipping them much more efficient within a larger pallet, truck or cargo container. For example, in large trucks, more goods can fit in a given space when they are compressed in plastic and oriented in a particular shape. When the goods are wrapped or packaged in materials other than plastic, such as large cardboard boxes, more room can be taken up per good which leaves less room for goods and likely costs a company (and the consumer) more money to store, transport and purchase the good. This also saves manufacturers money because trucks and other transporters are able to take fewer trips when more goods are packed in each shipment. Manufacturers also save money because plastic packaging is light-weight and due to the light weight, more goods can be shipped per shipment for less money.

In the food industry, plastic packaging is a better option than packaging with other materials. The properties of plastic, including its durability and ability to withstand extreme hot or cold temperatures, are important because of the requirement that food effectively be protected. Plastic can also be stabilized to prevent dangerous chemicals from affecting the food. Therefore, the packaging keeps the food inside preserved and nutritious for as long as needed. The plastic can also be manipulated to withstand extreme conditions for longer periods of time. For example, in the summer, packaging keeps cold foods colder for longer in order to keep the food from spoiling. In the winter these same packages are altered because the weather allows for a different structure.

In addition to its ability to withstand a wide range of temperatures and temperature changes, plastic packaging for foods saves distributors money because it preserves the food and limits waste that comes from unpredictable conditions that may occur during shipping. Plastic packaging also protects foods from moisture, oxygen, dust, light, and odors. In particular, plastic packaging on fruits protects them from unnecessary moisture during transportation. This effect is important because if this moisture was allowed to reach the fruits, they would rot faster and would not be able to be sold to consumers.

A further benefit of plastics in packaging is flexibility in advertising. The durability of plastics allows for manufacturers to create eye-catching designs that appeal to consumers. Manufacturers also save money when using plastics for advertising because of low cost. Using plastics costs much less than paper. This is because paper manufacturing is much more energy consuming than that of plastic, as seen in a study done by the United States EPA, stating that plastic uses 40% less energy to produce than paper. Therefore, if designers were to use paper while creating ads it would be much more expensive than using plastic. It would also be much harder to achieve the desired design with paper as plastic is more malleable, flexible, and durable than paper. Because of these characteristics of plastic, designers can create more appealing designs which increases consumer interest, sales and brings in more money for companies.

Finally, plastic is recyclable -- meaning, whatever is made out of plastic can be remade into something new. In fact, many companies today are working hard to increase the recyclability

of plastic products. If companies are able to reuse materials, money is saved because it doesn't have to be spent on new raw materials. According to the study done by the United States EPA, a pound of paper requires 91% more energy to recycle than a pound of plastic. This is a huge cost saver for manufacturers because the materials they are reusing and recycling cuts the prices of producing new goods.

The flexibility, adaptability, properties, characteristics, cost and recyclability of plastics combine to prove the cost-saving benefits and desirability of plastics for many industries worldwide. So, while it can be argued that plastics may have negative effects on our environment, it is fair and persuasive to argue the many positives they bring to our society. Without plastics we would not have as effective or economical packaging, shipping, or advertising. These factors that save big companies and manufacturers money, also save the consumers' money. The less manufactures have to spend, the lower is the cost of any given good. All in all, plastics do have a positive influence on our society.

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[i] xplastics.com
[ii] ibid

NORTHERN REGION 1ST PLACE ESSAY CONTEST WINNER

Jacquline Willsie, Freeland High School

Beautiful Plastic: The Art of Reuse

For over a century, plastic has overtaken the world in all forms. Plastic encompasses the world around us, impacting the global availability of foods, medicine, and providing protection from the elements, however I have never heard plastics described as pretty. Why is this? Plastic can have pretty designs on it, it can have a nice color to it, so why don't people look at discarded plastic and think, "This is the most beautiful thing I have ever seen!"? At least, people don't think that until they see the works of artists like Mbongeni Buthelezi, Sue Lipscombe, and Veronika Richterová. Throughout the world, plastic is being given new life. What was once something to be thrown away is now being turned into pieces of wonderful art, bringing awareness to the misplacement of plastic.

Artists across the globe are using repurposed plastic to create inspirational works of art. A South African plastic artist, Mbongeni Buthelezi, describes his art as, "I collect rubbish and create something beautiful from it. I collect something that has no value and give it a new life. That's what we can do with ourselves and our lives." These works of plasticky art are created by heating up plastic and placing it onto a canvas, creating an oil painting look. These "paintings" help to mediate and communicate hope for the South African people. His message is simple yet transcends cultures, you can create a better life out of something basic just as

you can create wonderful art out of discarded plastic. His artwork has been shown all around the globe, helping inspire people and creating a narrative that there is more to South Africa, and more to discarded plastic, than what might be initially seen.

Each artist chooses a unique medium in order to send a different message. While Buthelezi's art looks nothing like the original plastic collected, other artists choose to keep the original shape of the plastic. One sculpture utilizing this strategy is the "Bristol Whales," created by Sue Lipscombe. It is composed of 70,000 repurposed plastic bottles elegantly aligned to form rolling waves over the city of Bristol, England ("Whale"). The bottles were collected from the Bath Half-Marathon and the Bristol 10k Race. The two whales are composed of Somerset willow, gracefully combining both natural and man-made materials.

While the other artist may use local plastic supplies others tend to experiment more. Veronika Richterová, an artist from the Czech Republic, has collected more than 3,500 plastic bottles from 96 countries. She is constantly experimenting with different techniques to create her art. She has cut, melted, heated, and assembled many different works of art, creating anything from light fixtures to creatures (including animals and plants). She always makes sure that she uses a particular type of plastic in her sculptures, PET plastic. This type does not decompose naturally, so Richterová sought to give them a new purpose. Currently over 3,000 pieces of her work are being displayed in 76 countries. From her work, she has created wonderful sea creatures, flowers, and other aspects of natural life made of something wholly man-made.

The artists who use plastic as a medium all have one goal, to make something beautiful out of something that most people believe is worthless. They see something more than just waste in their work, they see a message, a new way to look at our world. Our world is filled with useful, reliable, and consistent plastic that many people view as one dimensional. Something to be used and then discarded. Artists like Buthelezi, Lipscombe, and Richterová breathe new life into something that most consider to be worthless. Plastic gives them the perfect base to start with, and from there, their imagination is allowed to fly.

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DATE CHANGE!

ANTEC® 2021 TO NOW TAKE PLACE IN MAY

ANTEC® 2021

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

There are now two ways to enjoy ANTEC®.

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SPE is expanding ANTEC® 2021 to include multiple attendee options, enhanced networking and an international focus. The 2021 program will include three segments: ANTEC® Industry Insights, ANTEC® Classic and ANTEC® International.

Each segment will be presented virtually. ANTEC® will kick off with Industry Insights, a two-day offering presented via SPE's exclusive live-streaming service to remote attendees from May 5-7. ANTEC® Classic will offer real-time, remote presentations occurring over 10-days from May 10-21. ANTEC® International, which begins on May 24, will include live online presentations from Asia, Australia/New Zealand, Europe, India, the Middle East and South America. International dates will be announced shortly.

4SPE.ORG/ANTEC21

PLASTIVAN SHIFTS GEARS INTO VIRTUAL LEARNING

PlastiVideos™
changing the perception of plastics one classroom at a time
Sponsored in part by SPE DETROIT

In the first 10 weeks of 2020 PlastiVan had visited 25 cities in 10 states for a total of 46 visits impacting 7,365 students. We were on track to serve over 40,000 students, but in March, the pandemic necessitated the shifting of gears. For the next nine months the PlastiVan team investigated online learning, wrote and rewrote scripts, and met to film videos over a five-month period. Even with the restrictions that Covid created – one of the educators and the videographer were down for almost six weeks with the virus – the team was able to create 22 video learning modules in five categories: Natural Plastics; Synthetic Plastics; Processes & Material Science; Take Action; and The Future of Plastics. All curriculum is aligned with Next Generation Science Standards and comes with supplementary materials to enhance the classroom experience. Our virtual resources are expected to increase our impact worldwide for years to come, **but it wouldn't have been possible without the support of the Detroit SPE Section**. You can see the promotional video on YouTube here.

Thank you, Detroit SPE!!

The development cost for the 22 PlastiVideo modules was estimated to be $5,000 for each module – a total of $110,000. Sandra McClelland, SPE Detroit's Education Chair, championed $60,000 in support from the Section for PlastiVideo development and over $55,000 for sponsored visits in 2021. She and the Detroit Board have always been strong believers in the value of PlastiVan. This tremendous level of support allowed the PlastiVideo program to be co-branded by the Detroit Section.

With your support of $60,000
we have developed 12 PlastiVideo modules

Plastics are Ubiquitous – Intro to plastics history and discoveries (1284–1860)

The Games Plastics Play – First natural plastics

What does a Chemical Engineer Do? – Casein, Bakelite and polymerization

Macromolecular Theory & Polymer Scientists – Staudinger

What is a Polymer? – Polymeric structure

Thermoplastics – Polyethylene, blow molding and recycling intro

You Crosslinked What? – Thermosets

Biomimicry and the World's 1st Commercial Synthetic Fiber – Nylon and organic chemists

Plastic Foams and Polyurethanes – Application engineering

Hydrophilic & Hydrophobic polymers – Sodium Polyacrylate and Polypropylene

Build a Better Bouncer – Material properties and additives

Mechanical Recycling – What YOU need to know to recycle

Sandra McClelland: "Detroit SPE is excited to support PlastiVan's video modules. We believe it is the right way to move forward for plastics education."

Other Support

The SPE Automotive Division has also been a long-time supporter of the PlastiVan and has given $20,000 for development and pledged over $40,000 for 2021 visits. The annual support of the Color and Appearance Division boosted our ability to move quickly into the development phase. The Plastics Pioneers Association gave $7,500 and pledged $7,500 more to be used as necessary. We hoped to raise enough for two modules in our Giving Tuesday campaign. We set our goal at $10,000 and were surprised by the record $22,958 raised. Giving Tuesday had 100 donors including the members of the Plastics Industry Association who gave $4,710, the Chicago Section and Educational Foundation, the Akron Section, the Product Design and Development Division, and many other companies and individuals. And of course, none of this would be possible without our partner, Braskem. We are grateful to all our supporters!

spe FOUNDATION

September 22, 2020

Sandra McClelland
Detroit SPE Education Chair
5750 New King Dr, Suite 120
Troy, MI 48098

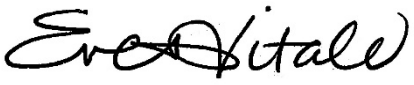
Dear Sandra,

Thank you for the generous gift of $60,000 from the SPE Detroit Section in support of our campaign for PlastiVideos. This thoughtful support was instrumental in getting our virtual PlastiVan Program off the ground so that we could continue to teach and excite students about the world of plastics. We also appreciate your generous commitment to sponsor visits this year.

The PlastiVideo program is co-branded with Detroit's logo and the Section will be prominently featured in an article announcing the program in January's issue of *Plastics Engineering.* Your support will also be noted in all press releases.

In a year where nothing has been predictable, thank you for supporting our efforts to inspire and educate students about plastics science and career opportunities. Together, we are *changing the perception of plastics one classroom at a time.*

With gratitude,



Eve Vitale, Chief Executive
SPE Foundation

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2020 DETROIT SPE TOP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Delta Polymers Scholarship Award
Chelsea Wright

Chelsea Wright is a junior at Kettering University majoring in Industrial Engineering. She is active in the SPE student chapter at Kettering.

Chelsea is an advocate for the creation of new inventions that will be sustainable, reduce waste and will affect future generations for the better. One of her ideas is to use plastic bottles in the construction of concrete blocks and slabs for building houses .Since plastic has the basic property of being insular, it can be added along with or in place of other insulation materials to provide/maintain the temperature of buildings.

Future Leaders Scholarship Award
Samantha Thiessen

Samantha Thiessen is a junior at Ferris University majoring in the plastics Engineering Technology. She is the president of the student chapter of the Society of Plastics Engineering at Ferris University.

Over the past few years, she has developed multiple designs for plastic containers in the food industry that could benefit the average consumer.

Along with her plastics engineering studies, she wants to pursue a master's degree Business Administration with the hope of one day starting her own business.

Dr. Regnald Bell Scholarship Award
Jordan Howell

Jordan Howell is a 5th year senior at Kettering University, majoring in Industrial Engineering. He is president of the A-Section of the SPE student chapter at Kettering.

He was active in the effort to bring the PlastiVan to a school in Flint, with the hope of creating a foundation for students to understand the importance of STEM and the value of plastics in our everyday lives.

He wants to make a significant impact in the plastics industry to ultimately solve issues within the automotive and manufacturing industries.

Women to Watch Scholarship Award
Jillian Ulinski

Jillian is a senior at Kettering University majoring in Mechanical Engineering. She is president of the SPE student chapter at Kettering. She has been instrumental in finding a way to recycle the plastic used in the Kettering 3D lab.

She has aspirations to develop a company that uses recycled plastic materials to create different plastic products.

OUR TOP SCHOLARS

SPE Detroit's Scholarship Program had 17 awards for 2020-2021. Kettering University took the top spot with 13 awards, including three of the top scholars, Jillian Ulinski, SPE Detroit Women to Watch Scholar; Chelsea Wright, Reg Bell Scholar; and Jordan Howell, Delta Polymers Scholar. Ferris State University had two awardees including Samantha Thiessen, SPE Detroit Future Leader Scholar and Michigan State and Michigan Tech each had one scholar.

Students must be enrolled at either a four-year college/university or two-year community college degree program pursuing a career directly related to plastics (i.e. Plastics Engineering, Polymer Engineering/Science, Packaging Engineering, Material Engineering/Science, Composite Materials and Structures, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry or Mechanical Engineering).

They must be an active SPE student member including active membership in an SPE Student Chapter if applicable and maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.8 (4.0 scale) from the prior school year. Bonus consideration is given for SPE leadership and plastics internships or co-op experience.

Please help spread the word to your colleagues and friends about the program. We'd love to see more applicants from eligible colleges and universities. Find more info about the program on our scholarship application page or contact Tom Miller at TMiller@teknorapex.com.

2021 Detroit SPE Scholars

5th Year Seniors

Jordan Howell	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$5,000
Zach Veneziano	Kettering University	Mechanical Engineering	$1,000
Antonia Chin	Kettering University	Chemical Engineering	$1,000
Navardo Henry	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$2,900
Demetri Blackwood	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$1,000
Bryan Hutton	Ferris State	Plastics Engineering Technology	$1,500

Seniors			
Jillian Ulinski	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$6,000
Matthew Tracey	Michigan Tech	Mechanical Engineering	$1,200
Brandt Bohan	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$2,500
Ashley Wisdom	Kettering University	Chemical Engineering	$2,000
Khari Gray	Kettering University	Industrial & Mechanical Eng.	$2,000
Tanashki Frater	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$2,000
Juniors			
Trent Salmon	Michigan State	Mechanical Engineering	$1,000
Samantha Thiessen	Ferris State	Plastics Engineering Technology	$6,000
Chelsea Wright	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$4,000
Candace Ulett	Kettering University	Mechanical Engineering	$1,500
Sophomores			
Chelsea Walters	Kettering University	Industrial Engineering	$1,000

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SCHOOLCRAFT COLLEGE'S MANUFACTURING CENTER

Armando Sardanopoli, Instructor

Schoolcraft college has completed a building renovation and relocation of all the occupational programs related to manufacturing to 13001 Merriman Road in Livonia, MI. This location is just a few minutes from the main campus. The newly renovated building is 48,000 square feet. This is more than double the space these programs occupied on the main campus.

The programs offered are a great fit for the local companies involved in manufacturing, especially the plastics industry.

Programs that fit this career path include Plastic Technology both certificates (16 and 33 credit programs) and an associate degree in Plastic Technology. The same program structure exists for CAD students, advanced metal finishing (CNC), electronics/Mechatronics (learning about the inner working of processing equipment), Robotics, Occupational Safety and Welding. All designed to fit the needs of today's plastics industry.

Additionally, Metallurgy and Automation also offer both certificate and associate degrees.

The Plastic Technology program now has the capacity in its processing lab to expand its program to include equipment other than injection molding and thermoforming in the process lab. Future plans include added extrusion and blow molding capabilities.

The testing lab, consisting of a universal tester (tensile machine), drop impact tester, MFI unit and ageing oven now has the capacity to include an Izod/Charpy impact tester and two lab hoods for both chemical exposure and flame testing

Rhetech, a material supplier/compounding company in Whitmore Lake, MI has been a generous donor to the Schoolcraft College Plastic Technology program. Jason Hamilton, VP of development and production, has been an active member of the advisory board for the plastics program. The company has pledged $50,000 to be paid over 5 years. The $10,000 received in 2020 was used to purchase lab equipment and to install the injection molding machine.

The facility as a whole has the capacity to serve 300-400 students per day and offers the following opportunities: dual enrollment/middle college (take college courses while in high school at no cost), apprenticeship training that can be developed to meet the company needs, and work force development. This includes "bootcamps" in CNC machining, welding, and robotics.

Embracing the concept of providing transformational learning experiences, Schoolcraft College is determined to meet the needs of the surrounding community. The MEC is one way that Schoolcraft College is investing resources to meet the labor demand for engineering technology professionals.

All of that being said, there is always a need for philanthropic support to help finance the additional needs in equipment for each of these programs.

The SPE Detroit Section has supported the Plastic Technology Program at Schoolcraft with equipment funding.

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President Elect	David Okonski	General Motors			david.a.okonski@gm.com
First Vice President	Neil Fuenmayor	LyondellBasell		517-898-7117	neil.fuenmayor@lyondellbasell.com
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Past President	Eve Vitale	Series One LLC		810-814-6412	eve.vitale@series1one.com
Treasurer	Tom Powers	Consultant		248-877-0689	tpowers@ejourney.com
Councilor	Dr. Sassan Tarahomi	Alterra Holdings		201-887-7635	starahomi@comcast.net
Secretary	Bob Petrach	Safety Technology International, Inc.		248-703-5995	bpetrach@sti-usa.com
Director Emeritus	Irv Poston Tom Powers Norm Kakarala	Retired (GM) Consultant Inteva Products Retired	248-646-9574	 248-877-0689 248-840-6747	ieposton@juno.com tpowers@ejourney.com sriman.kakarala@gmail.com
Advertising	Bob Petrach Fang Wang	Safety Technology International, Inc. BASF	248-618-6809	248-703-5995 313-701-1910	bpetrach@sti-usa.com fang.wang@basf.com
AutoEPCON Conference	Sandra McClelland	Solvay Speciality Polymers	586-264-0063	586-292-1794	sandra.mcclelland@solvay.com
Awards	Pete Grelle	Plastics Fundamentals Group LLC	248-752-2611		PFGrp@aol.com
Communications/Web Content	Vacant				
Education Fund	Sandra McClelland	Solvay Speciality Polymers	586-264-0063	586-292-1794	sandra.mcclelland@solvay.com
House/Programs	Bob Petrach	Safety Technology International, Inc.		248-703-5995	bpetrach@sti-usa.com
Intersociety	Wayne Hertlein			586-243-6078	wayneh7758@aol.com
Material Auction	Dawn Cooper	Summit Plastic Molding		248-390-2499	dcooper1010@gmail.com
Membership	Laura Shereda	Asahi Kasei Plastics, NA		517-223-5133	lshereda@akplastics.com
Newsletter Editor	Eve Vitale	Series One LLC		810-814-6412	eve.vitale@series1one.com
e-Communications	Irv Poston	Retired (GM)	248-646-9574		ieposton@juno.com
Nominations/Elections	Irv Poston	Retired (GM)	248-646-9574		ieposton@juno.com
Plastivan & Essay Contest	Tom Miller Todd Hogan	Teknor Apex Dow Chemical Co.	810-986-6131 989-636-5303		tmiller@teknorapex.com tahogan@dow.com
Public Interest	Dawn Cooper	Summit Plastic Molding		248-390-2499	dcooper1010@gmail.com
Scholarships	Tom Miller	Teknor Apex	586-291-5289		tmiller@teknorapex.com
Education	Sandra McClelland	Solvay Speciality Polymers	586-264-0063	586-292-1794	sandra.mcclelland@solvay.com
Technical Programs	Sassan Tarahomi	Alterra Holdings		201-887-7635	starahomi@comcast.net
TPO Conference	Neil Fuenmayor	LyondellBasell		517-898-7117	neil.fuenmayor@lyondellbasell.com
WebMaster	Rob Philp			248 716-0657	rphilp@sirmax.com
Historian	Wayne Hertlein			586-243-6078	wayneh7758@aol.com
Golf Outing	Vacant				
Volunteer Coordinator	Vacant				

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TERM ENDING 6/2021

Lyle Beadle
Lbeadle4747@gmail.com

Peter Grelle
pfgrp@aol.com

Dr. Adrian Merrington
amerrington@trinseo.com

Sandra McClelland
sandra.mcclelland@solvay.com

Tom Pickett
tomjpickett@yahoo.com

TERM ENDING 6/2022

Richard Broo
richard.broo01@gmail.com

Laura Correa
laura.correa@wellmaner.com

Wayne Hertein
wayne775@aol.com

Dr. Suresh Shah
sbshah356@gmail.com

Fang Wang
fang.wang@basf.com

TERM ENDING 6/2023

Todd Hogan
tahogan@dow.com

Rob Philip
rphilip@sirmax.com

Armando Sardanopoli
sardanopoli-sec@live.com

Keith Slopes
keith.siopes@gmail.com

ADMINSTRATIVE

Karen Rhodes-Parker karen@spedetroit.com
248-244-8993 248-244-8920

SPE Detroit Website
www.SPEdetroit.org

TPO Conference
www.auto-TPO.com

SPE International
www.4spe.org