spe DETROIT

TRENDS & TOPICS

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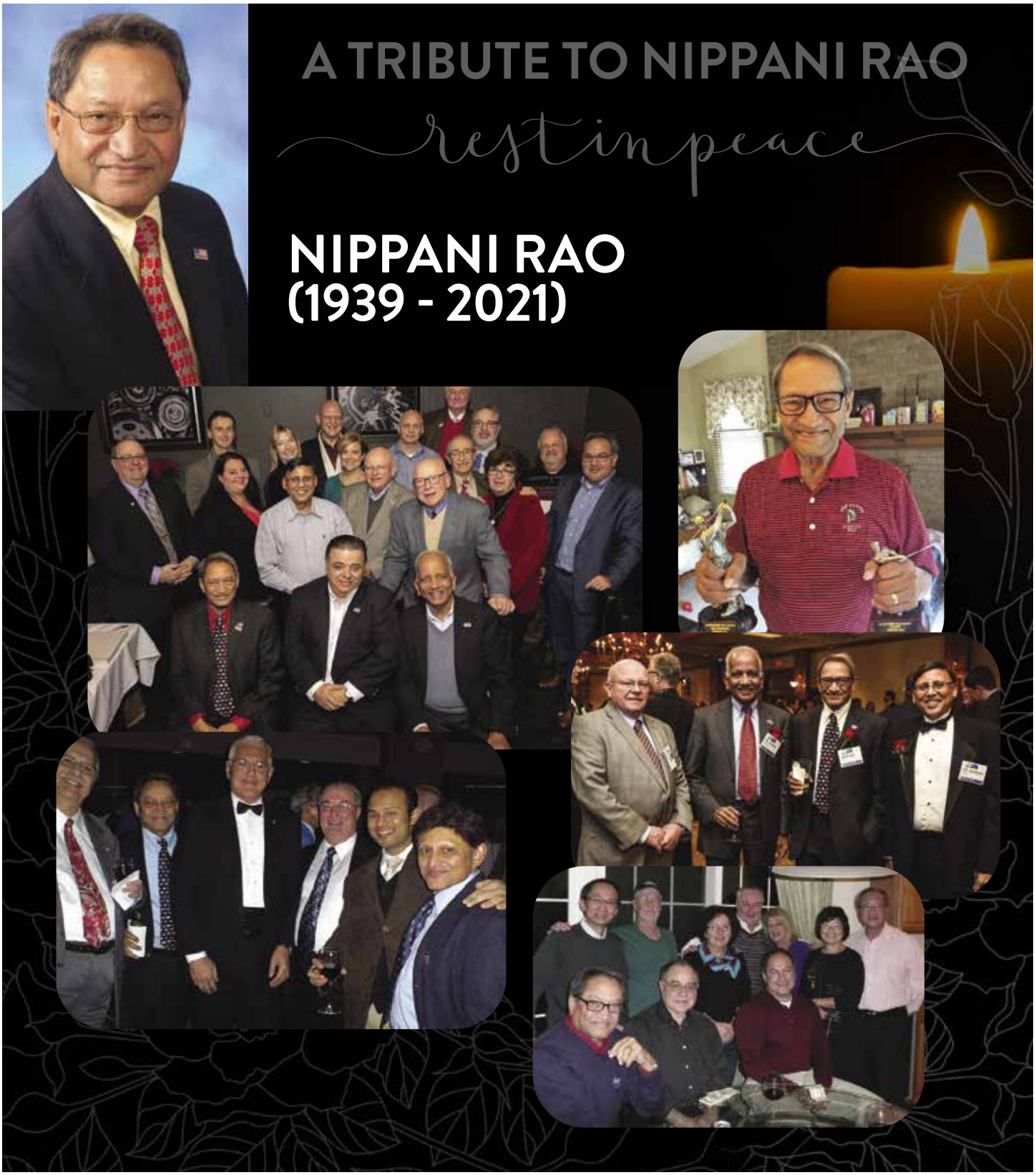


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

LAURA SHEREDA, ASAHI KASEI PLASTICS

2020 and 2021 have been years that we could not have imagined if we tried. Despite the struggles, we have learned a tremendous amount about what we value, how to make an impact from a distance, and what we need to do to help our organization survive well into the future.

Despite cancelling conferences for health and safety reasons last year, the Detroit Section has continued to make a significant impact on our community. The Detroit Section awarded $63,500 in scholarships to deserving students for the 2020-2021 school year and presented the top awards to the students and their parents in a socially distanced ceremony. We also contributed $60,000 to the PlastiVideo project, which will allow the SPE Foundation to reach many more students in more geographical areas. The Detroit Section also kept its donation of PlastiVan visits the same as budgeted for the 2019-2020 school year. The TPO Conference will be held in October as a fully virtual event. We are excited to share some excellent technical content and virtual networking with you.

The essay contest was by far the largest we have ever seen. Many students, including a large portion of students from the Detroit area, wrote insightful, intriguing essays about the wonders of plastics. Awards for the essay winners were presented at a socially distanced ceremony.

This year the Detroit Section has also experienced some losses. We lost two mentors and long-time members in the past few months. Nippani Rao was a Section member for many years. He held several positions in both the Detroit Section and the Automotive Division over the past few decades. Irv Poston was well respected in the plastics community and was a member of SPE for over 50 years. We will miss both men and their contributions to the Section.

As I hand over the presidency to David Okonski of General Motors, I think not only of the challenges we have faced over the past two years, but also of all the things we have done to impact our community. I look forward to seeing him continue on the road to making the SPE Detroit Section sustainable for many years to come. Thank you for allowing me to lead as Section President the last two years. I have learned so much in that short time.

Thank you,

Laura Shereda

IN THIS ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

EVE VITALE, SERIES ONE LLC

I'm working hard to get the newsletter back on track after the pandemic. There is much to be reported, unfortunately some bad. In this issue we are paying tribute to Nippani Rao who succumbed to COVID-19. We also learned that another of our emeritus board members, Irv Poston, has passed away. Both were giants in the Detroit Section and their enormous contributions to plastics innovations, education, and the Society of Plastics Engineers will be sorely missed. We are better having worked with them and having known them.

But we are celebrating as well – Suresh Shah's induction into the Plastics Hall of Fame, Bob Petrach's award of Honored Service Member as well as SPE Detroit Member of the Year in 2019, all Detroit awards for 2019 and 2020 which honor those of us who were recognized for our contributions to the mission of the Society and the Detroit Section. Congratulations!

As we round the second half of 2021, we have so much to look forward to and to be thankful for as friends and colleagues. Let's enjoy the journey while we can. — Eve Vitale

TRIBUTE TO NIPPANI RAO

rest in peace

Our dear friend and colleague,

Nippani passed away early Tuesday evening, January 19, 2021, at Beaumont Hospital, Farmington Hills. He was 81. Nippani was born November 15, 1939, in Hyderabad, Telangana, India, to the late Bhimsen and Ghodavri (Baru) Nippani. He married Joan M. (Burns) on February 28, 1969, and together they enjoyed nearly 52 years of marriage. In addition to his wife, Nippani is survived by three sons, David, Eric, and Stephen (Michelle); and siblings, Rama Nippani and Lakshmi Veena. In lieu of customary remembrances, those who wish to further honor his memory are invited by his family to consider a contribution to the Wounded Warrior Project.

Pat Farrey, SPE CEO said: Nippani was an active member of the Society of Plastics Engineers, where he received the "Honored Service Member" award – the highest award for service to the Society and the industry. His friends and colleagues at the Society appreciated and respected him, both personally and professionally. We share his family's sadness."

Nippani was a long time Board member of the SPE Detroit Section, the SPE Automotive and the SPE Composites Division. His kindness and leadership helped create the success of all three chapters and he will be greatly missed by so many. He was a chair of the SPE Automotive Div. Lifetime Achievement and Automotive Innovation Hall of Fame Awards and served as a judge on the Blue Ribbon Committee for the SPE Automotive Innovation Awards and ACCE Part Competition and played a leadership role on numerous other committees for many years.

Nippani was one of the Detroit SPE TPO's founders and was active in the TPO Conference since its inception in 1999. He was most recently the Chair of the Detroit SPE Awards Committee and the Annual Golf Outing but had served in many roles in support of the Section over the years.

Nippani worked as a materials engineering supervisor at Chrysler from 1986 – 2008; Technology manager at Asahi Kasei from 2008 – 2010; and as president of RAO Associates from 2009 until his death. One of the highlights of his career was the engineering responsibility of the award-winning Dodge Viper Body innovations with resin transfer molding. He held numerous patents. He held Chemical Engineering degrees from Xavier University and the University of Cincinnati and an MBA in marketing from Xavier University.

The Detroit Section will not be the same without Nippani. He is remembered for his good humor, his smile, his kindness, his wisdom and willingness to serve.

TRIBUTE TO NIPPANI RAO

rest in peace

Tributes:

In 2009, when I became a member of the SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors, one of the first people to welcome me to the Board was Nippani Rao. During that time, we worked together on several committees, including the Awards Committee and the Golf Outing Committee. When I became Awards Committee Chairperson, Nippani shared his extensive experience in helping me to understand this new responsibility. He was an excellent coach and mentor, and I learned this new role very quickly thanks to his support.

Nippani always enjoyed bringing members of the SPE Detroit Section together for social gatherings. In 2013, Nippani led a committee to bring back an event to the Detroit Section Calendar that had not be held in years; the SPE Detroit Section Golf Outing. Since then, this event has now become a major fund-raising event to support educational programs in the Detroit Area.

Nippani is gone, but his contributions to the SPE both in Detroit and on the international level will never be forgotten. We will miss him deeply. — ***Pete Grelle***

"Nippani was very close friend and SPE colleague since 1990. I will always cherish the beautiful memories working together at several SPE events with his amazing dedication. I will miss going out for a leisurely lunch at his favorite Indian restaurant "Biryani Express". He will be greatly missed but his kindness, smile, good attitude and gentle spirit will be remembered forever. With love and deepest sympathy as we remember a very dear friend". — ***Suresh Shah***

Nippani gave me a lasting impression as warm and kind gentleman albeit briefly via my interview for the SPE Detroit Section board member position. I cherish the interactions at our in-person board meetings and will always remember him fondly. — ***Fang Wang***

When I heard that Nippani had passed away the day before, it was like a giant sack of rocks had fallen on my head. Nippani and I have worked on SPE together for 20 years. We golfed together, roomed together for 6 years when he served as councilor for the Automotive Division, and I had the same position for the Detroit Section. Nippani always volunteered for committee chair positions. He became the chair for the Divisions at Council several of the years we worked together. Everyone got along with Nippani, and I never saw him without a smile on his face. He will be missed, and I feel very fortunate to have had him as a friend. — ***Tom Powers***

I worked with Nippani in the past and keep very good memories of him. Visiting FCA with him was like walking with a celebrity! He will be missed. My thoughts and prayers to his family.
— ***Rodrigo Orozco***

Nippani was one of the most genuinely kind and supportive members of the SPE Automotive Division.

Nippani was always so nice to work with and very helpful to me personally. I will miss dearly and always remember his warm smile. — ***Teri Chouinard***

I am very sad and surprised to hear about Nippani's passing. Nippani has made significant contributions to the Detroit Section and the committees he has served on over many years. He will absolutely be missed. — ***Laura Shereda***

MY PASSION FOR 3D PRINTING

DANIEL PISARSKI, POWERTRAIN MANUFACTURING ENGINEER
FORD MOTOR COMPANY

DANIEL PISARSKI
is an additive manufacturing enthusiast, with a personal and professional passion for all areas of 3D printing. He was a student moderator for four years at the Society of Plastics Engineers AutoEPCON conference and has received scholarships from the SPE Detroit Section, including the 2017 Delta Polymers Achievement Award, the 2018 Reg Bell Scholarship, and the 2019 Future Leaders Achievement Award. Daniel graduated from the University of Michigan in Mechanical Engineering in May of 2020 and is currently pursuing a master's degree in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Michigan. Daniel is also a powertrain manufacturing engineer at Ford Motor Company, where he looks to apply advanced manufacturing methods in the automotive industry.

Contact Daniel: danpis@umich.edu
Etsy.com/shop/DanielsDDDesigns

I was first introduced to 3D printing at an exhibit at Maker Faire Detroit around 2011. I was mesmerized watching a Makerbot machine layer by layer, seemingly creating a rabbit out of a spool of plastic. What looked to me to be no different than a fancy hot glue gun, a tool I had used many times for school projects, this machine was creating a physical object which I was able to hold in my hands. This technology, which had been locked away from the masses of hobbyists for decades, was about to cultivate a new generation of makers. For me, an aspiring future engineer still in middle school, a fascination was forged. A fascination that would guide the next decade of my personal and professional life.

My first chance to explore additivev manufacturing came during high school when my shop class teacher was awarded a grant to introduce 3D printing in education. I took an immediate interest and was the self-designated expert, always fixing any jams and finding ways to get the most out of our somewhat unreliable machine. In class, we learned computer-aided design (CAD) and bridging the virtual space with the physical space helped fuel my passion for engineering.

This interest led me to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Michigan. There I was able to further develop my interest in design and manufacturing by joining a student design team. Michigan Autonomous Aerial Vehicles (MAAV) created an autonomous drone competing in an international competition every year. Due to weight constraints, 3D printing was used extensively to create functionally complex parts that would not have been possible using traditional methods. While I was the hardware team lead, I became immersed in generative design, an iterative design process that uses machine learning to create parts that are hyper-optimized for their specific application. This was a technology I had only learned about a year before, while I was a student moderator at the SPE AutoEPCON conference, and now I was using it for my applications.

MAAV's drone during an outdoor test flight in M-Air

Yet, when March of 2020 hit, all those exciting engineering projects went on hold. Instead, I had more free time to pursue the more artistic side of 3D printing. With my personal FDM machine, a Prusa MK3, I created a handful of decorations, such as signs or plaques, to decorate my room with or hand out to friends or family as gifts. The glowing feedback from everyone, coupled with the boredom of a lockdown, created an opportunity. Shortly thereafter I created my Etsy shop, DanielsDDDesigns (*pronounced Daniel's 3D Designs*), and repurposed a personal logo I made in a graphics design class that past semester. At first, I only had a handful of prints in my shop, and each day I would check the number of views my items received.

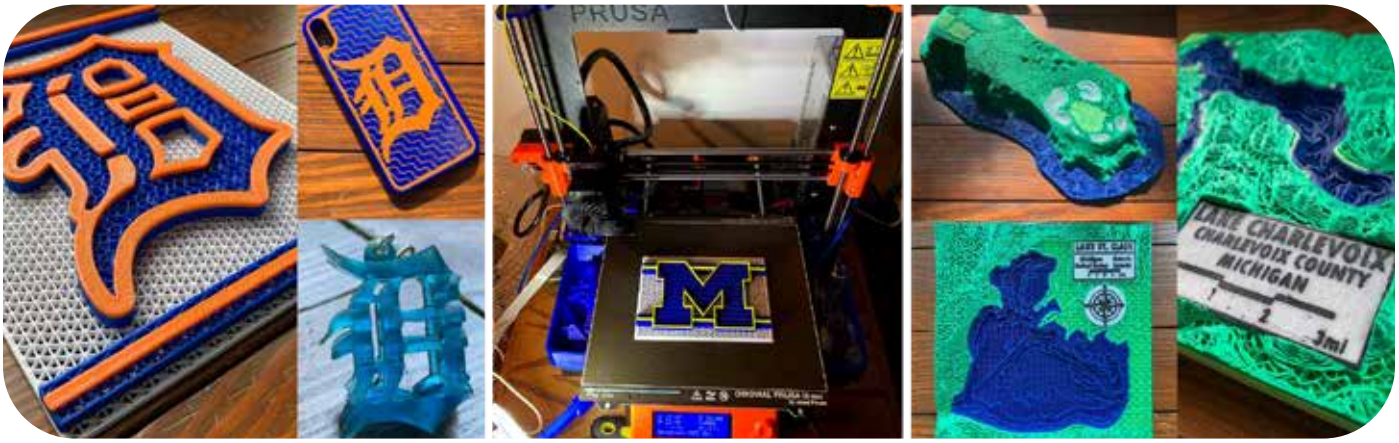
Shockingly, only a few weeks passed before I earned my first sale. By the time my semester had ended, I was gaining more attention and earning several sales per week, while also adding new items almost daily.

Once my shop gained positive reviews, I was pleased to get the occasional message asking for custom requests. Starting with an idea, or image for inspiration, and plenty of free time, I was able to turn around a digital mockup and 3D printed prototype usually within a day. These custom requests were often popular enough that I could add them to my shop as new listings. These custom requests were on average better sellers than my normal items. My favorite request has been for Harry's Scratch Kitchen, a Minnesota restaurant that created an Armed Forces service memorial. I designed and 3D printed coaster-sized emblems of each branch which were then inlaid into their bar table.

Armed Forces Emblems for Harry's Scratch Kitchen

The last piece of my passion-for-additive-manufacturing story is the area where I aspire to grow the most. While hobbyist level machines using modalities like FDM or SLA have exploded in popularity, there exists a separate class of machines, processes, and materials in the commercial space. The challenge for a regular enthusiast, like myself is: how do I gain access to these technologies to learn all about their every aspect? Barriers to entry are immense. For example, with a metal sintering process besides the machine and material cost being more than a brand-new car (or house!) the infrastructure needed to operate the machines in a safe environment and getting the proper training is significant as well. The answer I have found is to position myself in a career where I can use these tools in my everyday job.
I joined Ford Motor company as an intern in the summer of 2019, and then full-time in the fall of 2020 in powertrain manufacturing. The automotive industry is on the cusp of more change happening in the next decade than in the previous century. Led by the push for electrification, and autonomous vehicles, smart and advanced manufacturing systems will enable a new revolution in manufacturing. My first rotation at Ford has involved me supporting the site renovation, construction, and machine install efforts for a future electric powertrain. I have learned a great deal about manufacturing from these first six months.

Ford's vision for using AM in prototyping, fixturing, and production excites me as the full range of possibilities is far from being realized today. To further expose myself to advanced manufacturing, I have begun a part-time master's program in Manufacturing Engineering from the University of Michigan. I look forward to continuing to learn from the academic and industry experts at this world-class university. As I look back on the development of my passion for printing over the last decade, I am intent on being curious as I create tomorrow with my personal Etsy shop, my advanced education, and my career in the automotive industry.



Detroit Tiger's themed prints (left), Prusa MK3 3D printer (middle), and topographic lake prints (right)

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIRS

The Society of Plastics Engineers ("SPE") Detroit Section and the 2021 SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference Planning Committee have been closely monitoring the coronavirus ("COVID-19") global pandemic. Our team has been reviewing responses at the state and federal levels in order to assess the best options for our annually scheduled conference that is set in October.

Although we are beginning to see some improvements in our current environment, we have decided to move this year's event to an all-virtual setting. This decision was made after reviewing the guidelines set by the United States Centers of Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and discussing with our sponsors, members and committees.

Our priority remains to be the of the health and safety of our global attendees, speakers, sponsors, exhibitors, supporting partners and the 40+ voluntary members of the planning committee. We still have an excellent technical program and opportunities to network – it will just be in a different setting this year.

More information regarding the logistics of our virtual event will be available on our website, **www auto-tpo com**. If you are a sponsor or exhibitor for this event, you will receive separate communications in the coming weeks. Planned speakers will also be contacted with instructions regarding their presentations.

We apologize in advance for any inconvenience this decision may cause. Our teams encourage any feedback or questions to one of our steering committee members. We look forward to seeing you virtually for this 2021 event,

Laura Shereda
Detroit Section President

Neil Fuenmayor
Conference Co-Chair

John Haubert
Conference Co-Chair

Bill Windshceif
Conference Co-Chair

2021 TPO CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

Since 1998, the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®), leading global OEMs and Tier Suppliers, as well as the TPO supply chain have pooled their resources to create the **SPE® AUTOMOTIVE TPO ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS GLOBAL CONFERENCE**, a dynamic, interactive, and cost-effective learning experience. The show highlights the importance of rigid and flexible polyolefins (TPOs) as well as a growing range of thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) and thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs) throughout the automobile and in other forms of ground transportation.

The event has become the ***world's leading automotive polyolefins forum*** and typically draws over 600 key decision makers and some of the world's foremost authorities on transportation polyolefin applications, economics, and market trends. As such, it provides excellent 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.

For many years now, the Conference Committee has set aside a yearly scholarship fund from the Conference's proceeds for applicants that are graduate students attending an approved college or university anywhere in North America. The amount of the scholarship fund ranges from $2,500 to $5,000. It is awarded to candidates doing graduate research work on an independent project featuring rigid or flexible polyolefins (TPOs). The development work may involve TPO materials development, processing, painting, additives to enhance properties, bonding of TPO materials or any related studies involving TPO.

Student candidates interested in applying for our scholarship should fill out the application form on the next page and also submit a one-page description of the proposed work, expected results and candidate's credentials. All applicants must be in good standing with their colleges or universities at the time they apply for the scholarship.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING AN APPLICATION IS AUGUST 20, 2021. It should be sent via e-mail to Karen Rhodes-Parker, SPE Detroit Section Administrative Assistant (Email: **Karen@auto-tpo.com** and Phone Number: (248-244-8993). Final selection of the winner(s) will be decided after each finalist's scheduled 20-minute presentation via WebEx during the week of **SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2021.** Once confirmed, the scholarship winner(s) are expected to write a paper (research report) and publish their findings at the 2021 SPE Automotive TPO Global Conference. **ACCESS THE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION HERE.**

BE A PART OF THE 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

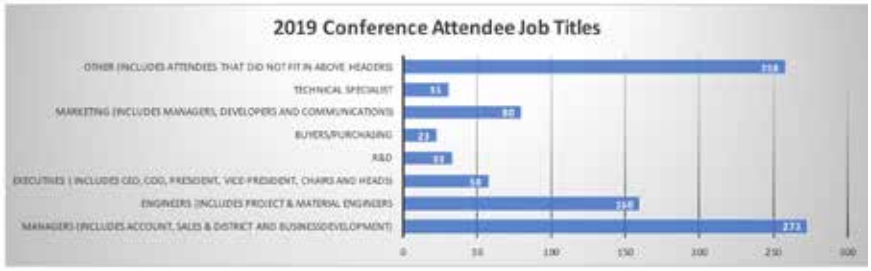
Now in its third decade, the **SPE TPO GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERING POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE** is the world's leading engineered polyolefins forum, highlighting advances in polyolefin materials, processes, and applications technologies as well as a growing range of thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) and thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs).

This year's event is planned to be an all new virtual format, occurring over 3 days, featuring 8 technical sessions with 70+ papers and select industry keynote speakers. The conference will be held **OCTOBER 4-6, 2021** with a virtual experience for all participants, speakers, and sponsors/exhibitors, promising an even greater global scope of participation.

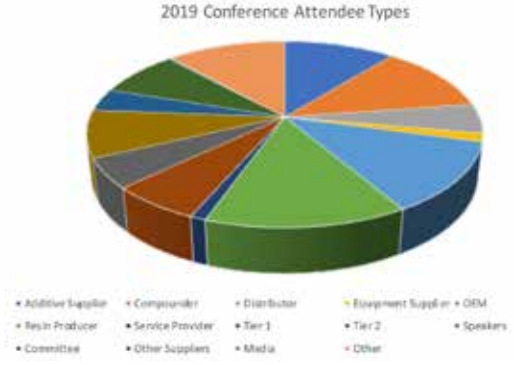
2021 TECHNICAL SESSION CATEGORIES

MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT
SURFACE ENHANCEMENTS
INTERIOR APPLICATIONS & LAMINATING ADHESIVES
PROCESS DEVELOPMENTS & SIMULATIONS
LIGHTWEIGHTING OF POLYOLEFIN PARTS
APPLICATIONS FOR BIO BASED MATERIALS
ENABLERS FOR PLASTICS RECOVERY & REUSE
INNOVATIONS IN PLASTICS FOR FUTURE MOBILITY

2019 DEMOGRAPHICS (LIVE IN-PERSON CONFERENCE)



Type	Number
Additive Supplier	99
Compounder	109
Distributor	47
Equipment Supplier	13
OEM	112
Resin Producer	128
Service Provider	10
Tier 1	58
Tier 2	47
Speakers	75
Committee	36
Other Suppliers	74
Media	2
Other	106
Total	916



NEW VIRTUAL EXHIBIT & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Many sponsorship packages are available. Companies interested in showcasing their products and/or services at the conference should contact karen@auto-tpo.com.

2019 SPE TPO GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE SPONSORS:

PLATINUM & EXHIBITOR

Advanced Composites · Braskem · Alterra Holdings · Formosa Plastics · hp · SUMITOMO CHEMICAL

GOLD PLUS EXHIBITOR

3M Science. Applied to Life.™ · AsahiKASEI · AUDIA ELASTOMERS · BOREALIS · CIMBAR · CLARIANT · Continental · DOW · ExxonMobil · H.B. Fuller · KAARTZ · IMERYS Talc · INTEVA · KINGFA · lyondellbasell · mcpp · MHolland · MITSUI PLASTICS · PolyOne · RED SPOT · sabic · SIRMAX · TRINSEO

EXHIBITOR

Adell · AESSE · americhem · AMINE CHEMICAL CORPORATION · BYK · ChasePlastics · CRODA Polymer Additives · ENTEC · GP General Polymers · Kal-Polymers · KRÜSS · MRC · MAROON GROUP · nexeo plastics · NOBLE polymers · NOF CORPORATION · Quantum Analytics · RA RELIABLE ANALYSIS INC · RheTech · RTP · Specialty Minerals · struktol · TECHMER PM · UCC

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SPARTAN

MORE CONFERENCE INFO AND REGISTRATION DETAILS COMING SOON AT **WWW.AUTO-TPO.COM!**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 22ND SPE® TPO AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE

Now in its third decade, the 22nd Annual **SPE® TPO AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE** is the world's leading engineered polyolefins forum, highlighting advances in polyolefin materials, processes, and applications technologies as well as a growing range of thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) and thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs).

This year's event is planned to be an **ALL NEW VIRTUAL FORMAT** featuring real-time, remote presentations from 70+ technical sessions, occurring over 3-days as well as select keynote speakers. The conference will be held **October 4-6, 2021,** virtually for all participants, promising an even greater global scope of participation.

The conference will showcase talks by keynote speakers from Ford Research and Advanced Engineering, Plante Moran, Magna Exteriors, and Advanced Resource Efficiency Centre (AREC-USA). The theme of this year's 2021 technical conference and exhibition is ***"Charging Future Mobility"***.

CYNTHIA FLANIGAN

The conference keynotes take place each morning and will kick off Monday, October 4 with an opening keynote by **Dr. Cynthia Flanigan, Chief Engineer of Vehicle Research and Technology within Ford Research and Advanced Engineering.** She is also the Conference Executive-Chair. Her talk titled, ***"Changing World, Changing Needs, Changing Materials,"*** will elaborate on the automotive industry and its need to respond to societal and workplace changes, with emphasis on the circular economy and new technologies for personal and shared mobility. In response, many options that emphasize electrification, ride-share, self-driving and micro-mobility will be offered. "The world is changing at an unprecedented rate, giving us a tremendous opportunity to address the changing needs of our customers both today and for the future," notes Flanigan.

MARK BARROTT

Also on Monday, October 4, the conference's second keynote will feature **Mark Barrott of Plante Moran.** His keynote titled, ***"the Future of Mobility"*** will focus on autonomous vehicles, mobility as a service (MaaS), and electrification and how they are disrupting the auto industry. According to Barrott, "While there's disagreement over how fast and how far the trends will grow, they're likely to act as an accelerant for each other and move increasingly fast once they reach a tipping point. It is essential for OEMs, suppliers, and other firms in the value chain to track the progress of each of these three trends as they interact and enable one another to get

ready for the fourth one — a massive reorganization of the manufacturing value chain. Companies need to understand the position their products and services occupy along the industry's ultimate commercialization pathway." During his presentation attendees will learn more about these trends and how they will affect every step in the automotive value chain — including design, assembly operations, supplier manufacturing, retailing, financing, and public and private infrastructure — going forward. The presentation will also address how quickly autonomous vehicles, MaaS, and electrification will converge to reinvent the automotive industry; questions you should be asking to prepare for inevitable, sweeping changes; and action items you'll need to execute so you don't get left behind.

SID ASTHANA

On October 5, Tuesday's keynote will feature **Sid Asthana, Global Director, Materials Engineering, Magna Exteriors.** His talk will feature an in-depth discussion titled, ***"Innovations and Trends in Automotive Plastics."*** Asthana will share how advanced plastics are already shaping future mobility, including the impact of increased electrification and the shift toward autonomy.

As Global Director of Materials Engineering for Magna Exteriors, Dr. Asthana has responsibility for materials used in automotive exterior parts supplied to vehicle manufacturers.

LENNY KOH & ALICYN RHOADES

On Wednesday, October 6, Professors **Lenny Koh** and **Alicyn Rhoades** will describe the present state of sustainability in the automotive industry relative to other major industrial sectors, specifically addressing the supply chains available for TPO in their keynote tItled, ***"Sustainability in the Automotive Industry and Life Cycle Management Strategies for TPO."*** Aspects of materials life cycle on environmental sustainability will be described. Dr. Rhoades will describe the state of the art in TPO recycling and the impact that implementing new TPO recycling technologies and circular economy strategies may have on life cycle management strategies, including the potential to repurposing value streams for waste automotive polyolefins.

CALL FOR PAPERS
SPONSORS & EXHIBITORS FOR ACCE 2021

COMPOSITES: DRIVING VALUE BY REDUCING WEIGHT AND COSTS & INCREASING PERFORMANCE

PRESENT YOUR COMPOSITES TECHNOLOGY at the SPE ACCE 21st annual event. The 2021 ACCE technical program will include papers/presentations on industry advances organized into the following categories: Thermoplastic Composites; Thermoset Composites; Modeling; Additive Manufacturing & 3D Printing; Enabling Technologies; Sustainable Composites; Bonding, Joining & Finishing; Carbon Composites; and Business Trends/Technology Solutions. Paper abstracts are requested as soon as possible (early submissions will be given priority) and are due by **June 7th, 2021**. Final papers or non-commercial presentations are due **July 12th, 2021**. Authors who submit full papers (not presentations) in the proper format will be considered for the conference's Best Paper Awards, which are presented during the event's opening ceremony. A template for papers can be downloaded from the SPE ACCE website online via **http://speautomotive.com/acce-forms**. Abstracts can be submitted online via **4SPE.org/ACCEAbstracts**.

In addition to technical sessions, the SPE ACCE features panel discussions, keynotes, and exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for both thermoset and thermoplastic composites in a wide variety of transportation applications. Networking opportunities enhance the value of the event that attracts over 400 attendees worldwide. The Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) jointly produce the ACCE to educate the industry about the benefits of composites in transportation applications.

SPONSORSHIP AND EXHIBIT OPTIONS offer companies the opportunity to support the event and promote their products and services to a very targeted and interested audience. Student Poster Competition and Scholarship sponsorships are also available. All sponsorships include passes to the event including access to all keynotes, panel discussions, technical sessions and daily networking opportunities. Sponsorship also includes corporate exposure on SPE ACCE websites, advertising, publicity, social media, signage throughout the event venue and more. Companies interested in supporting the event with sponsorship should contact Teri Chouinard at **teri@intuitgroup.com** and go to **www.speautomotive.com/acce-conference** for more information.

2021 SPONSORS

AOC Trusted Solutions · BASF · Composites One · DIEFFENBACHER · DSC Consumables Incorporated — High quality lab ready dsc sample pans · ENGEL · Western University in cooperation with Fraunhofer · HEXION · INEOS Composites · JM Johns Manville · LOTTE ADVANCED MATERIALS · MAGNA · MICHELMAN · MITSUBISHI CHEMICAL — Mitsubishi Chemical Carbon Fiber and Composites, Inc. · comusa · Quadrant · Moldex3D Molding Innovation · MP Molding Products · sampe North America · Schmidt & Heinzmann

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HALL OF FAME

DR. SURESH SHAH TO BE INDUCTED IN "PLASTICS HALL OF FAME" BY THE PLASTICS ACADEMY AT THE FALL BOARD MEETING OF PLASTICS IN ST. PETERSBURG, FL. IN OCT, 2021

DR. SURESH SHAH, Detroit SPE Board member, will be inducted in the Plastics Hall of Fame in St. Petersburg FL in October at the Plastics Industry Association's annual meeting. The Plastics Hall of Fame was founded in 1972 and is arguably considered to be the highest honor one can receive in the plastics industry.

Dr. Shah retired from General Motors and Delphi Corp. as a Senior Technical Fellow and was the first to invent and introduce the plastics module concept 27 years ago, leading a team that designed and developed the all-plastic door inner module dubbed the SuperPlug. The component, which replaced 50 metal pieces, was the first and most complex part commercialized using gas injection molding technology.

His expertise and experience garnered him more than 50 intellectual properties including patents and trade secrets with more than 50% being in production. He has worked on materials development with natural fiber composites, nanocomposites, TPOs and TPEs and has a reputation as a master problem solver. He holds many awards, is widely published and is a sought after technical speaker.

Dr. Shah was honored by SPE as a Fellow of the Society in 2001 and awarded Honored Service Member status in 2004 having been nominated for both by the Automotive Division.

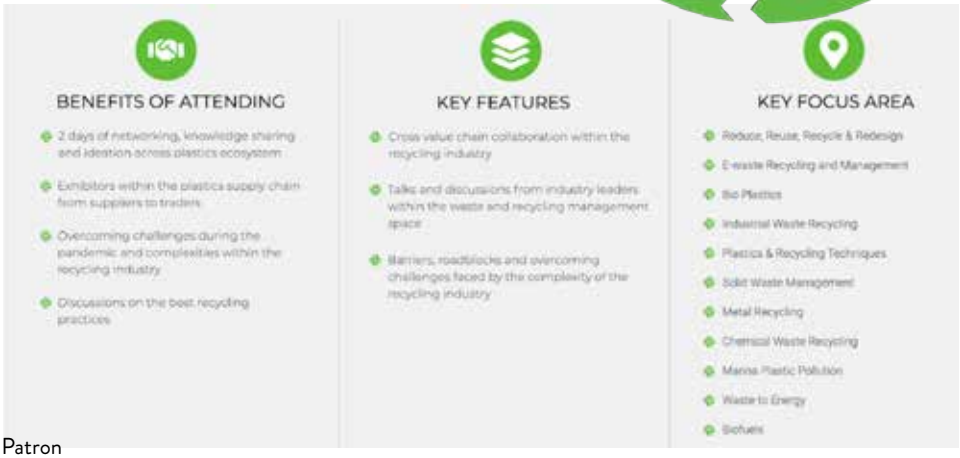
RACE RECYCLING AND CIRCULAR ECONOMY

ASIA | AMERICAS | EUROPE

ASIA
July 15-16, 2021

AMERICAS
October 7-8, 2021

EUROPE
January 20-21, 2022



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ROBERT PETRACH NAMED SPE HONORED SERVICE MEMBER

February 7, 2020: SPE recently announced the 2020 recipients for two of its prestigious awards: the Honored Service Members (HSM) Award and the Fellow of Society Award. The SPE awards programs demonstrate an individual's dedication to the Society as well as achievements that impact the plastics industry. The Fellow of the Society program was established in 1984 and 348 SPE members have been awarded with the Fellow title since its inception. Robert V. Petrach Jr., Injection Molding Operations, Safety Technology Institute was nominated by the SPE Detroit Section.

Bob has run the injection molding operation at Safety Technology International for that last 10 years. Prior to that, he was with GM/Delphi for 38.5 years with 12 years in the Delphi Injection Molding Center of Expertise. Bob is currently serving as the Secretary of the SPE Detroit Section, a role he has held since 2014. Bob has been an active member of the Detroit Section Executive Board since 2009 in a variety of positions, including President. He supports STEM education activities collaborating with SPE Divisions and other professional societies, SAE and SME, on technical events as well as Engineering Society of Detroit STEM activities, especially Future Cities. Prior to becoming active in SPE, Bob served as Chair of SME Oakland Macomb Chapter and Chair of SME Plastics, Composites, and Coatings Technical Community, 2009-2010. Bob received the SME Award of Merit, 2011.

ADRIAN MERRINGTON NAMED SPE HONORED SERVICE MEMBER

SPE recently announced the 2021 recipients for its prestigious Honored Service Members (HSM) Award. The SPE HSM program started in 1992 with 347 members named Honored Service Members since the program was launched. Adrian Merrington, Business Quality Leader, Trinseo, was nominated by the SPE Detroit Section and received the SPE HSM Award for 2021.

Adrian Merrington, B.Sc. (Hons.), Ph.D., M.R.S.C., C.Chem., C.Sci., has a passion for education and research, particularly in the areas of plastics, plastics recycling, and plastics sustainability. He is a Business Quality Leader at Trinseo with responsibility for compounds and blends and part of the company's sustainability closed-loop initiative. He has been Principal Investigator on multiple projects and is author of numerous papers and presentations. He has written four book chapters. He is also listed in Who's Who in Plastics and Polymers. He has been a member of SPE since 1994 and has been active in both the Detroit Section and Recycling Division Boards. He is past-President of both Detroit Section and the former mid-Michigan Section, being amongst those members instrumental in the merger of the two. He has been Councilor and Technical Chair for the Recycling Division. He was the 2010 Sustainability Division Outstanding Member and the Detroit Section 2017 Outstanding Member. He has served at the international level on the Sections Committee. His vocational interests include football (soccer) where he has been a coach since 2004 and a referee since 2018; football (American) where he was a former college player and now avid watcher. He also enjoys photography and travel. He is galvanized by the support of his wife, Liane, and sons, Ian and Lucas.

The 2021 SPE HSM Awards recipients were honored at ANTEC® 2021, which took place virtually March 22-April 9, 2021.

PETER F. GRELLE NAMED 2019 OUTSTANDING MEMBER

Peter F. Grelle has been a member of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) since 1972. He has served as a member of the SPE Injection Molding Division Board of Directors since 1991 and was Division Chairperson from 1997-1998. Since 1999, Peter has served as Technical Director of the Injection Molding Division. In 2000, Peter received the Engineer of the Year Award from the SPE Injection Molding Division. From 1993-1996, he served as a Director on the SPE Rochester, NY Board of Directors. In 2006, he received the SPE Honored Service Member Award.

In 2009, Peter became a member of the SPE Detroit, MI. Section Board of Directors, and was President of the Detroit Section from 2013-2014. In 2015, Pete received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the SPE Detroit Section.

From 1994 through 2007, Peter was active on the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) Structural Plastics Conference Committee and was Conference Chairperson from 1999-2001. In 2002, he received the SPI Industry Recognition Award for his contributions to the Structural Plastics Conference and the Structural Plastics Industry. Peter has four (4) US and International Patents and has published forty (40) publications in plastics technology. Four (4) publications have received awards from the SPE, SPI, and the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) for Best Paper and Presentation.

From 2009-2017, Peter participated in the SAE Detroit A World in Motion Program (AWIM), in which engineers volunteer to work on projects with Elementary, Middle School, and High School Students to promote science and engineering. In 2016, he received the Outstanding Contributions to AWIM Award from the SAE Detroit Section.

Peter is a native of Lawrence, Massachusetts. In 1971, while attending Lowell Technological Institute (now University of Massachusetts at Lowell), he decided to major in Plastics Technology based on a suggestion that his mother, Frances Grelle, gave him. His mother told Pete that from 1934-1936, she was the first female injection molding machine operator at the Bolta Division of the General Tire Rubber Company in Lawrence, MA., and was responsible for injection molding neoprene rubber combs. As Pete claims “Plastics was always in my blood!”

In 1974, Peter received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Plastics Technology from Lowell Technological Institute, and in 1980 received his Master of Science Degree from the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. In 1976, Peter began his career as a Production

Supervisor at Carlon Inc. and later with the Schick Safety Razor Company. In 1977, he became a Production Engineer at Sewell Plastics, and helped set up the first production line for making PET beverage bottles for both the Coca Cola and the Pepsi Cola Companies. In 1978, Peter became Asst. Technical Superintendent at Wellman, Inc, where he was involved in the development of nylon and polyester (PET) injection molding compounds. In 1981, Peter began his career with Olin Corporation, Winchester Group. During his time at Olin, Peter obtained four (4) US and International Patents for developing two shot molding and bonding of dissimilar materials, and for the design of the first all plastic sporting shotgun shell. In 1987, he was employed at the Monsanto Corporation, and as senior engineer, developed and designed several new products used in the building and construction industry. In 1989, Peter began a 20-year career with the Dow Chemical Company as a Senior Specialist and Development Leader in the Engineering Plastics Business Unit. He had technical service and development responsibility for such customers as Eastman Kodak, Hoover and the Xerox Corporation. In 1996, Peter relocated from Rochester, N.Y to Detroit, MI. to join the Dow Automotive Business Unit, and had responsibility for UTA and Chrysler. In 2001, he established the Dow Automotive Customer Technical Support Center (CTSC) for servicing Dow Automotive Engineering Plastics Customers. After he retired from Dow in 2008, Pete started a consulting and training business, Plastics Fundamentals Group LLC, and in 2014, became an adjunct instructor at Schoolcraft College in their new Plastics Technology Program. During that time, he has taught classes in plastic materials and processes, and injection molding at Schoolcraft, and at BASF, NYX Corporation, Sigma International, and the Ford Motor Company.

Peter resides in West Bloomfield, Michigan with his wife Angela. He has many hobbies, including travel, photography, cooking, and music. His biggest passion is the drum and bugle corps activity. During his high school and college years, Pete marched and performed in a competitive drum and bugle corps in the Boston, MA. Area. After nearly sixty (60) years of being a participant and an avid fan, he still attends drum and bugle corps championship competitions, held during the summer months, in the US and Canada.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

(2014-present)
Adjunct Instructor,
Schoolcraft College,
Livonia, MI.

(1989-2008)
Senior Specialist/
Development Leader,
The Dow Chemical Company,
Midland, MI., Rochester, NY,
and Detroit, MI.

(1987-1989)
Senior Engineer,
Monsanto Corp.,
Plastics Products Business Group,
St. Louis, MO.

(1981-1987)
Senior Plastics Engineer,
Olin Corp., Winchester Group,
East Alton, IL.

(1978-1981)
Asst. Technical Superintendent,
Wellman Inc. Plastics Div.,
Johnsonville, SC

(1977-1978)
Production Engineer,
Sewell Plastics, Inc.,
Atlanta, GA.

(1976-1977)
Production Supervisor,
Schick Safety Razor Co,
Milford, CT.

(1976) Production Supervisor,
Carlon Inc.,
Oklahoma City, OK
and Cleveland, OH.

SPE DETROIT SECTION 2020 AWARDS

The SPE Detroit Section's Awards Committee recognized star recipients for their outstanding contributions to the Section. These awards were announced AT the August Board Meeting.

2020 STAR AWARDS – ROBERT PHILP AND NEIL FUENMAYOR

Robert Philp, Business Development Manager at Sirmax was recognized for contributions to the TPO conference and as an A/V chairperson for the event. He has been contributing to the Section as well as the TPO conference organization committees for over six years. For his valuable contributions, the Detroit Section recognizes him with an Individual Star Award.

During my association with SPE, I've had the great fortune to have worked with many wonderful colleagues and mentors over the years! The opportunity to network has been indispensable! To me having the ability to give back to the industry that has provided my family and I a great living over the years by volunteering is vital! I've been blessed to be working for a great company, Sirmax, that has not only encouraged but also supported my continued participation in SPE! I'm humbled to be a part of such a great team and organization! Truly, I am honored to receive the award and recognition! Thank you! — Rob Philp

Neil Fuenmayor, Automotive Business Development Manager at LyondellBasell has been recognized with an Individual Star Award. He has been contributing to the TPO Conference for the last ten years as a Session Chair and more recently as the Conference Chair. Neil has been persistently leading the organization of the conference which takes up most of the year to put together and the Section appreciates his contribution.

I am grateful to receive the Star Award from the Detroit Section and particularly thankful to work with a wonderful team of 40+ volunteers for the Annual SPE TPO Automotive Conference. Since joining SPE early in my career in 1990, I have learned a lot and enjoyed numerous opportunities that SPE offered. In 2010, I was pleased to join the SPE TPO Automotive Conference planning committee as a Technical Session Chair and contribute back to SPE and to the industry. Starting with our very special 20th Anniversary Conference in 2018, I have been honored to lead and continue to grow this event as Conference Chair along with several wonderful Co-Chairs. I was also happy to be nominated to the Detroit Section Board of Directors in 2017, and the Automotive Division Board of Directors in 2018. I want to mention some special long time SPE mentors, among many folks, who have been valuable to me in these endeavors over the years: Bill Windscheif, Nippani Rao, Sassan Tarahomi, and the late Ron Price. — Neil Fuenmayor

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – UNITED PAINT & CHEMICAL COMPANY

United Paint & Chemical Company is a Michigan-based small business delivering paint solutions in automotive, hospitality, consumer goods and marine sectors. United Paint has supported SPE's Detroit Chapter for over 20 years. They have also been volunteering and providing long-term sponsorship for the TPO conference. For their continual support, United Paint & Chemical Company has been recognized as a Community Service Award Recipient by SPE Detroit Section.

The SPE, and specifically the TPO conference has meant a lot to United. This conference assisted us technically to stay at the forefront of TPO evolution in the automotive sector. As a smaller company, the SPE has allowed us the opportunity to network throughout the automotive supply chain from substrate to OEM's. — Robb LaCasse, President, United Paint & Chemical Company

PAST PRESIDENT'S AWARD – DR. LAURA SHEREDA

Dr. Laura Shereda, a Polymer Scientist at Asahi Kasei Plastics and President, SPE Detroit Chapter has been recognized with the Past President's Award. Laura has been a part of SPE for eight years and has been involved in both TPO and AutoEPCON for several of those. During the last year as the president, Laura has worked to define the chapter's programs and to increase outreach. Thank you, Laura for your leadership, devotion, maintaining the purposes, aims and high ideals of the Society.

OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD – EVE VITALE

Eve Vitale, Chief Executive of the SPE Foundation, Past-President, SPE Detroit Section Board Member, and Principal of Series One LLC has been tirelessly working towards engaging and educating the youth about plastics. Eve has been heavily involved in PlastiVan®, traveling across the country, meeting new students and molding young minds towards a career in the plastics industry. With the pause on in-person schooling due to the pandemic, Eve has been working hard towards PlastiVideo so that young kids do not miss out on any learning opportunities. Thank you, Eve for your relentless support and inspired efforts towards the Society, and congratulations on the Outstanding Member Award.

I'm very honored to receive this award. The Detroit SPE is a powerhouse in plastics education and being able to serve the Section as a volunteer has been one of the highlights of my plastics career. — Eve Vitale

APPRECIATION AWARD – KAREN RHODES-PARKER

Karen Rhodes-Parker, administrator to the Detroit Section has been an invaluable contributor for the past seven years. She has been continually helping the section and the board with multiple activities including the TPO conference, SPE AutoEPCON, the Material Auction, and board meetings ensuring their successful coordination year after year. The Section Board recognizes Karen's contributions and presents her the 2020 Award of Appreciation.

I would like to thank the Detroit Section for my award. I am surprised and grateful for the award. — Karen Rhodes-Parker

SPE DETROIT SECTION 2019 AWARDS

On Monday September 9, 2019, the SPE Detroit Section presented their 2019 Awards during the September Technical Meeting held at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, MI. The following awards were presented to the following recipients:

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS – WAYNE HERTLEIN AND DR. SURESH SHAH

To be selected for the SPE Detroit Section Lifetime Achievement Award, individuals must be SPE members who have had long, productive careers, and are members of the SPE Detroit Section. Recipients for this award are selected by the Awards Chair, the Awards Committee, the SPE Detroit Section President, and President-Elect. In 2019, there were two (2) recipients of this prestigious award: Mr. Wayne Hertlein and Dr. Suresh Shah.

Wayne Hertlein has dedicated his life to his pursuit of knowledge of making and manufacturing tooling and plastic parts and was destined to work in the manufacturing industry.

With over 43 years of experience in tooling for the medical, automotive, telecommunications, and the military fields, including prototype and production tools for close-tolerance, high-precision molds, Wayne has held a variety of positions ranging from apprentice mold maker to engineering department manager and plant manager.

As an active and dedicated member of both SPE and SME since 1981, Wayne currently serves on the boards of directors of the SPE Detroit Section and SPE Mold Technologies Division. He is Past-President of the SPE Detroit Section.

Wayne was named an Honored Service Member of SPE in 2006. Along with that, he is an Advisor to the Plastics Industrial Advisory Committee at Ferris State University and has served in this capacity since 2005. Wayne was most recently inducted into the Plastics Pioneers Association in April of 2019.

Dr. Suresh Shah is a retired, Senior Technical Fellow at Delphi Corporation, formerly General Motors – ACG (Automotive Components Group). He is a technical specialist, with over thirty (30) years of experience and more than forty-five (45) Intellectual Properties including patents and trade secrets.

Dr. Shah advanced many plastic processes including gas-assist injection molding, co-injection molding, direct (inline-compounded (ILC) long-fiber thermoplastic (D-LFT) composites and thin wall molding.

He also advanced material developments involving many areas, including thermoplastic polyolefins (TPOs) and thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs). This expertise led to several game changing innovations including the single piece, all plastic door hardware module known as SuperPlug®, and TPO thermoformable skin for instrument panels. He also developed many other innovative applications for exterior, interior, and under-the-hood components.

Dr. Shah has received more than twenty (20) prestigious awards internationally. He is respected as an industry expert and a key opinion leader and has been interviewed over 30 times by industry trade journals, presented as a keynote speaker more than fifteen (15) times and has presented more than eighty (80) technical papers worldwide.

2019 STAR AWARDS – DAVID OKONSKI AND LYLE BEADLE

To be selected for the SPE Detroit Section Star Award, nominees must show individual achievement within the Detroit Section for a period of over two (2) years. A maximum of two individuals are recipients for this award. Recipients for this award are selected by SPE Detroit Section President, and the Detroit Section Board of Directors (BOD). In 2019, there were two recipients of this award: Mr. David Okonski, and Mr. Lyle Beadle.

Mr. David Okonski began his career at the GM R&D Center over thirty-five (35) years ago and has specialized in the injection molding process since day one when he was told to investigate the effect of processing conditions on plastic part performance.

He has been involved with the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) for many years and is currently the 2nd Vice President of the SPE Detroit Section and the ANTEC 2020 Technical Program Chair and Past-Chairperson for the SPE Injection Molding Division. David works as a student mentor at several universities and sits on the Curriculum Advisory Boards for the Plastics Departments at both Ferris State University and at Penn State Erie.

David is being recognized, for his significant contributions as a Conference Co-Chair and as Sponsor Chair for one of the Detroit Section major events, the SPE Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference. He has also served as a Sponsor Chairperson for the SPE AutoEPCON Conference, another major event sponsored by the SPE Detroit Section.

Mr. Lyle Beadle began his plastics career at General Electric Plastics (now SABIC) in 1974.

Mr. Beadle joined the Geon Vinyl Division of B.F. Goodrich in 1991 as the Automotive Marketing Manager and opened the Detroit Automotive Sales Marketing Office.

In 1996, Lyle began a 10-year work experience with Montell Polyolefins, which eventually became known as Lyondell Basell Polyolefins). Mr. Beadle graduated with Associate and Bachelor of Arts (Education) degrees from University of Toledo, Toledo, OH.

Lyle is being recognized, with the Star Award, for his help to SPE Detroit Section Secretary Bob Petrach and his help on writing excellent articles the newsletter, including profiles of some of the Detroit Section Board Members.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARDS – BOB PETRACH

The SPE Detroit Section Special Recognition Award Recipient is determined by the SPE Detroit Section President and is presented to an individual who is most deserving based on special contributions made to the SPE Detroit Section during the SPE Calendar Year. The recipient for the 2019 Special Recognition Award is **Bob Petrach.**

Bob is being recognized as an excellent coach, mentor, and role model to incoming SPE Detroit Section Officers, including the Detroit Section President, and has shown a high level of commitment to the role of Section Secretary.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD – CHASE PLASTICS, INC.

The SPE Detroit Section Award recognizes local businesses that have shown significant volunteer and financial contributions to the SPE Detroit Section for a minimum of five (5) years. This award is decided by a vote of members of the Awards Committee. The 2019 recipient of the Community Service Award is **Chase Plastics Inc.,** Clarkston, MI.

Chase Plastics Inc. has been a consistent newsletter sponsor which helps us get the word out on all educational initiatives that support students within our community.

They have done a great collaborating on articles for the SPE Detroit Section Newsletter. Chelsea Barriga and Jason Merkle have supported Next Gen leaders for the Detroit SPE, a major initiative for SPE. They've spread the word about SPE Detroit to other young professionals they know and continue to plan and work on successful events to engage them. Jason and Chelsea's team are growing now to include Laura Correa and Namrata Salunke.

Chase is also an exhibitor and a financial supporter for the SPE Detroit TPO Conference every year.

Chase Plastics also has their own commitments to community efforts and sustainable practices within their communities and was voted "Best Places to Work" by Plastics News in 2016 and 2018.

REMEMBER WHEN?

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

MOST INNOVATIVE USE OF PLASTICS AWARDS

The Automotive Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) is announcing a "Call for Nominations" for its 50th-annual ***Automotive Innovation Awards Gala,*** the oldest and largest recognition event in the automotive and plastics industries. This year's Awards Gala will be held Wednesday, **November 10, 2021** at the Burton Manor in Livonia, Mich. Winning part nominations ***(due by September, 15, 2021)*** in 10 different categories,and the teams that developed them, will be honored with a **Most Innovative Use of Plastics** award. A **Grand Award** will be presented to the winning team from all category award winners.

A special category has been added for the 50th-annual Automotive Innovation Awards: **INNOVATIVE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY PLASTIC SOLUTIONS FOR COVID-19 PROTECTION,** recognizing the outstanding effort by the plastics and automotive industries to support the international needs for battling this terrible menace that has cost so many so much.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

This annual event currently draws over 800 OEM engineers, automotive and plastics industry executives, and media. A variety of sponsorship packages - including tables at the banquet, networking receptions, advertising in the program book, signage at the event and more are available. Contact Teri Chouinard of Intuit Group at **teri@intuitgroup.com.**

For more info and to submit nominations, go to: **www.speautomotive.com/innovation-awards-gala.**

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Communications/Web Content		Vacant			
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