

DETROIT SPE RECOGNIZES TOP MICHIGAN SCHOLARS



CARTER DORAN, INAUGURAL PETE GRELE AWARD RECIPIENT



TANISHA FRANCIS, 4TH ANNUAL WOMEN TO WATCH AWARD RECIPIENT



KIMBERLY BETTY, 8TH ANNUAL REGINALD BELL AWARD RECIPIENT



ALEX KEPREOS, 8TH ANNUAL DELTA POLYMERS AWARD RECIPIENT



ABDO KORAYEM, 6TH ANNUAL FUTURE LEADERS AWARD RECIPIENT

SEE MORE ON PAGE 18

Irvin Emerson Poston

1933 - 2021



A Tribute to a Good Friend and SPE Colleague

Irv Poston, long-time SPE Detroit Section board member, great supporter of plastics and composite materials, and a friend to many of us passed away in May 2021.

He is gone, but he is not forgotten. His calm and gentle voice of wisdom will always be with us to guide us.

in Loving
MEMORY

INSIDE: A TRIBUTE TO IRV POSTON, SEE PAGE 16



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEIL FUENMAYOR, AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,
NORTH AMERICA LYONDELLBASELL



WELCOME TO 2023! As we start an exciting New Year, it's important that we take just a little bit of time to reflect back. First, I'd like to thank all of our members, as well as partners and sponsors, for your continued participation, support and contributions to the SPE Detroit Section in 2022. I'm especially proud of our team's efforts towards advancing our Mission to **educate, promote, recognize, and communicate technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments – particularly in**

the automotive industry. As the world continued to come back in 2022, we faced the challenges, explored opportunities, exceeded targets, and grew together. Our accomplishments and successes would not have been possible with your hard work and dedication to this voluntary organization.

Over the last few months of 2022, and already into 2023, we are off to a fast start with some of our initiatives:

- In its 23rd Year, and a return to the traditional, interactive live in-person format, the **SPE TPO Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference** – Powered by the SPE Detroit Section was held in Troy, MI from Oct. 2 – 5, 2022. Over the 4 day program, which featured 5 Keynotes, 7 Technical Sessions (with > 60 Technical Paper Presentations), 2 Tutorials, and a Student Poster Competition with Ecotek Lab - Detroit, MI (for academically gifted middle and high school students), we welcomed over 600 attendees. We'd like to thank all of the attendees, our 54 Sponsors and Exhibitors, and the 47 person voluntary planning committee for making this another overwhelming success!
- The SPE Detroit Section was a Special Award Sponsor for the "Incorporation of Plastic Materials" and Board members participated in judging for **The Engineering Society of Detroit's (ESD) Michigan Regional Future City Competition** on January 23, in Novi, MI. This project-based learning program features middle school students working on teams from various schools through the metro-Detroit area to design a city of the future. This year's overarching theme was "Climate Change."
- Sponsorship for **ImplementAM** (Implement Additive Manufacturing) in their inaugural one-day workshop, **Implement Additive Manufacturing in Your Organization**, held in Detroit, MI on Jan. 19. The SPE Detroit Section was proud to help sponsor

this interactive workshop – designed to be offered at various locales through the USA through 2023 – and offered discounted registration to our members for this event as part of our annual Technical Meeting Series.

During my term as President, I had promised to focus on several core areas, and I'm happy to report that thus far, we've made some great strides towards **Reinforcing our Core Values** (as highlighted above), **Fostering Collaboration, and Nurturing Growth.**

As such, I'm also especially happy to announce three new members to our Board over the last few months, some very recently elected in January. These individuals have come with some great creativity and energy to help us fulfill our current goals and define new ones:

- **Mary Gillam** - Staff Researcher in Lightweight Systems, Manufacturing Research at General Motors.
- **Dr. Mahmoodul Haq** - Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at Michigan State University. Dr. Haq is also the Director of the Michigan State University Composite Vehicle Research Center (CVRC).
- **Martin Popella** - President/Owner of (MP)squared LLC, a Detroit based rep. firm working to supply, and also consult with various partners and companies in the polymer industry in the areas raw material supply and engineering support along the way.

Please join me in welcoming them aboard. **You can learn more about them in this Newsletter.**

We are always seeking energetic and motivated individuals as we move forward together in our initiatives for 2023. I also invite any existing SPE Detroit Section Member who wants to get more involved or learn how to do so in the future, to reach out to any Board member or me – we'd be happy to welcome and work with you. Serving on the Board is a further opportunity within SPE to learn from others, and network professionally and personally, as you progress in your career. Additionally, if you have an ideas, suggestions, or feedback on something we've done, please contact me – I'll continue to learn from you.

Once again, we're all excited and looking forward to a great 2023! We've got some great educational and networking events already planned – stay tuned. We are looking forward to seeing and talking with you soon.

Neil E. Fuenmayor

WE MAKE

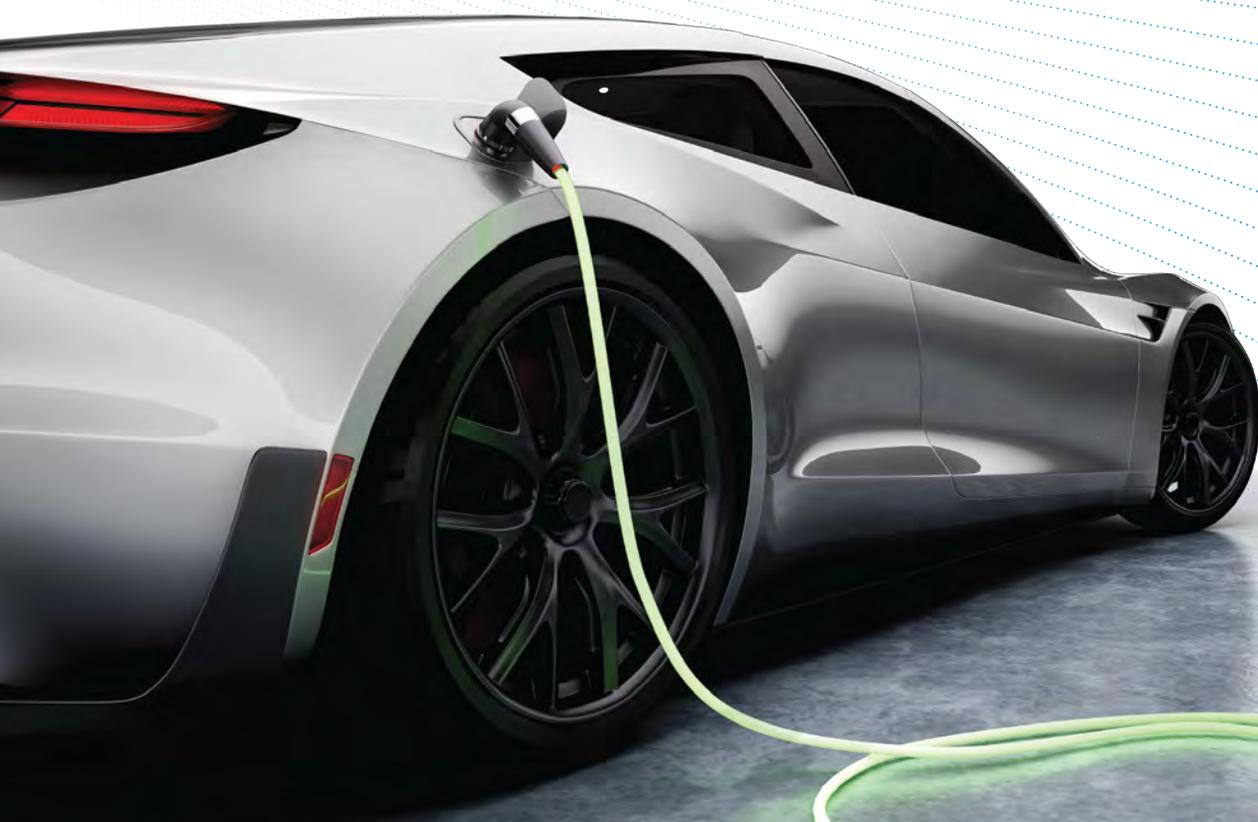
better vehicles

POSSIBLE

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Advancing Possible

Together with our customers and suppliers, we are **advancing** possibilities in the **automotive** market through a polymer portfolio dedicated to innovation and sustainability.

Visit [lyondellbasell.com](https://www.lyondellbasell.com) to learn more.



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TREASURER’S REPORT

TOM POWERS
SPE DETROIT SECTION TREASURER



AS OF JANUARY 6, 2023, SPE DETROIT'S FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE WAS:

	BUDGET (Entire Fiscal Year)	ACTUAL (Fiscal Year-to-Date)
INCOME	\$ 237,000.00	\$ 243,907.50
EXPENSES	\$ 359,016.00	\$ 314,472.70

Fiscal Year: July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023



AUTO EPCON 2023 CONFERENCE

The **SPE DETROIT SECTION**, **SPE INJECTION MOLDING DIVISION** and **SPE ADDITIVE MANUFACTURING CHAPTER** are pleased to announce the 2023 Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference on **MAY 2, 2023** at the **Detroit Marriott - Troy Hotel, 200 Big Beaver Rd, Troy, MI 48084**.

There is no more effective event to meet, network and learn with influential engineers and scientist involved in specifying, designing and recommending engineering plastics.

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

TOPICS INCLUDE:

- > Light weighting materials
- > Sustainable material solutions
- > Solutions for Electrification technologies including batteries, motors, e- drives, electronic control units, and fuel cell vehicles
- > Additive Manufacturing
- > Metal replacement
- > New materials
- > CAE/FEA analysis techniques
- > Materials designed for improved NVH
- > Structural Materials

CONFERENCE CHAIRS

David Okonski
General Motors Company

Sandra McClelland
SPE Detroit Section

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We are very excited to announce the return of the in-person 2023 AUTO EPCON Conference! We are pleased to welcome you back with sponsorship opportunities with valuable benefits to help re-establish your connection with the industry. Sponsorships include free admission passes, complimentary advertising, and exhibit space!

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration is now open!

REGISTRATION RATES

SPE Member Rate	\$175
SPE Student Member Rate	Free
Non-Member Rate	\$230
Non-Member Student Rate (Join SPE and attend Auto EPCON for free)	\$10

Refund Policy: Full refund, less credit card processing fees, up to one day prior to the May 2, 2023 conference date.



NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

BOB PETRACH
SPE DETROIT SECTION SECRETARY



Officers for the 2023-2024 year were elected from and by Directors of the Board of SPE Detroit Section at the January 9, 2023 meeting.

Officers for 2023-2024 with term beginning on July 1, 2023:

President – Fang Wang

President Elect – Rob Philp

First Vice President – Dawn Cooper

Second Vice President – Mary Gilliam

Past President – Neil Fuenmayor

Treasurer – Tom Powers

Secretary – Bob Petrach

Councilor – Sassan Tarahomi

Councilor is currently serving his second term as Councilor which will end at ANTEC in 2024. An election for his replacement will be held early 2024.

CURRENT ELECTED DIRECTORS

TERM ENDING 6/30/2023

Todd Hogan
Armando Sardanopoli
Keith Siopes

TERM ENDING 6/30/2024

Adrian Merrington
Sandra McClelland
Tom Miller
Tom Pickett
Eve Vitale

TERM ENDING 6/30/2025

Lyle Beadle
Mahmoodul Haq
Martin Popella
Laura Shereda
Bill Windscheif

There will be five elected director positions open for term ending 6/30/2026. If you are interested in running for a board position please contact Lyle Beadle, Bob Petrach or Dave Okonski. Director nominations will be completed at the March 13 meeting with ballots going out soon thereafter.



**INSPIRING
PLASTICS
PROFESSIONALS**

Visit the main Society of Plastics Engineers' website for up-to-date information on training, seminars, and other career-enhancing information.



BECOME A MEMBER TODAY
[hiip://www.4spe.org/membership/](http://www.4spe.org/membership/)

WELCOME NEW SPE DETROIT BOARD MEMBERS



MARTIN W. POPELLA is a Dynamic Polymer Expert with strong background in application sales development and 15+ years' experience in part development, injection molding and plastics materials. He has a strong technical background playing a vital role in the management, growth, and retention of global key accounts for a wide range of organizations. As an entrepreneurial and innovation driven manager dedicated to consultative value selling considering market segmentation and multiplication methods he became President and Owner of (MP)squared in January 2022. He excels at driving plastic products lifecycles with focus on strategic and smart implementation from purchasing to production and enhancing client experience and achieving customer loyalty supported with a strong global network and collaborative mindset in alignment with corporate needs.

Before (MP)squared he was a national sales and business development manager for LEHVOSS North America in CT and was a global OEM manager at Celanese Engineered Materials in Germany. He also has work experience with Krauss-Maffei Technologies and Magna Exteriors in Germany. He has degrees in Electrical Engineering and Plastics Engineering from the University of Applied Sciences Rosenheim, Germany. He enjoys skiing, reading, cooking and cars. [See Martin Popella's LinkedIn Profile here.](#)

DR. MAHMOODUL HAQ is an Associate Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) at Michigan State University (MSU). Dr. Haq was recently named the new director of the Michigan State University Composite Vehicle Research Center (CVRC). He also leads the group on 'Tailorable Materials and Multi-material Assemblies,' at the CVRC. He obtained his MS and PhD in the area of 'Structural Engineering and Mechanics of Materials' in CEE at MSU. He was awarded the governor's gold medal for securing the top place among ~2000 students in the B.S degree in University of Madras, India.

Dr. Haq also holds Adjunct Professor positions in the departments of Chemical Engineering and Material Science, Electrical and Computer Engineering and Mechanical Engineering at MSU. He has research grants exceeding US \$15.0 Million, holds 9 patents, and has 45+ peer reviewed articles, 200+ conference papers, and 25+ invited talks on aforementioned research topics. Among other things, Dr. Haq is currently leading a team that is focused on designing and developing a lightweight, all-electric, all-terrain, autonomous vehicle for the US Army Ground Vehicle Systems Center (GVSC).

Dr. Haq's research includes funding from U.S. Army Tank Ground Vehicle Systems Center (GVSC, formerly TARDEC), U.S. Army Research Lab (ARL), Office of Naval Research (ONR), U.S. Department of Energy (DoE), US National Science Foundation (NSF) and American Chemistry Council (ACC). His research interests include multi-material joining, additive manufacturing, non-destructive evaluation (NDE), multi-scale reinforced hybrid/tailorable composites, sustainable and green composites, and computational simulation of materials and structures. [See Dr. Mahmoodul Haq's LinkedIn Profile here.](#)

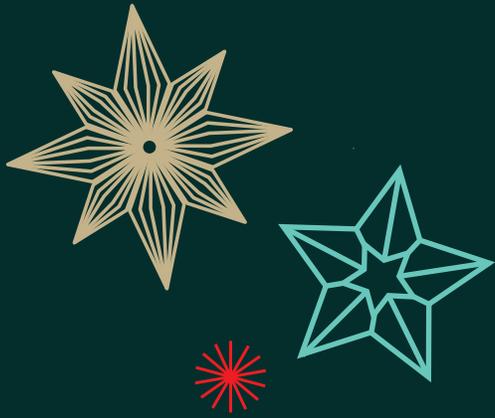


2022 SPE DETROIT BOARD HOLIDAY PARTY



The Detroit SPE Board celebrated the holidays and all of the Section's successes with a dinner at the Royal Park Hotel in Rochester. Everyone had a great time. Our special guest was Angela Grelle. The evening was spent connecting with friends and colleagues, missing those who couldn't be with us and sharing memories. Thanks to Karen Rhodes-Parker for planning such a great party!





Happy Holidays!



2023 PLANNED EVENTS

For more information please contact Karen Rhodes-Parker at 248-244-8993 ext.3 or karen(at)spedetroit.com

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
January 9, 2023	Detroit Board Meeting	ACC - 5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
February 21, 2023	PCS Plant Tour	34488 Doreka Dr, Fraser, MI 48026
March 13, 2023	Detroit Board Meeting	ACC - 5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
April 18, 2023	Technical Dinner Meeting	MSU Management Ctr, 811 W Square Lake Rd, Troy
April 23, 2023	Element Technologies Lab Tour	27485 George Merrelli Dr, Warren MI
May 2, 2023	Auto EPCON	Detroit Marriott - Troy
May 8, 2023	Detroit Board Meeting	ACC - 5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
June 19, 2023	Detroit Board Meeting	ACC - 5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
June TBD	Detroit Golf Outing	Bay Pointe Golf Club
August 12, 2023	Detroit SPE Picnic	American Legion Post 377 4819 Mary Sue Street, Clarkston 48346
October 1-4, 2023	TPO Global Automotive Conference	Detroit Marriott - Troy

2023 SPE CHAPTER & SPE HQ PLANNED EVENTS

In the spirit of collaboration to promote the good work of SPE chapters and SPE HQ we will be listing events and conferences which may be of interest to our members and friends.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
March 13-14, 2023	ESD Solid Waste Technical Conference	Lansing & East Lansing, MI
March 15, 2023	ESD Gold Award Reception & Recognition	20700 Civic Center Dr. Suite 450, Southfield, MI
March 27-30, 2023	2023 ANTEC	Hilton Denver City Center, Denver CO
April 10, 2023	SPE Automotive Board Meeting	Hybrid (Zoom & ACC Troy, MI)
April 12, 2023	Central Indiana SPE Networking	Moontown Brewing 345 S Bowers St, Whitestown, IN 46075
April 16-19, 2023	Plastics in Electric & Autonomous Vehicles Conference	Detroit Marriott Troy
May 8, 2023	SPE Thermoset TopCon	Madison, WI
May 9, 2023	ESD Michigan Energy Efficiency Conference & Exhibition	Suburban Collection Showplace, Novi, MI
June 12, 2023	ESD Golf Outing for Scholarships	Oak Pointe Country Club, Brighton, MI
June 19, 2023	SPE Automotive Board Meeting	Hybrid (Zoom & ACC Troy, MI)
June 26, 2023	SPE Chicago Golf Outing	Seven Bridges Golf Club, Woodridge IL
September 6-8, 2023	ACCE	Suburban Showcase, Novi, MI
September 18-20, 2023	SPE Color & Appearance CAD RETEC®	Columbus, OH
October 10-12, 2023	SPE FlexPackCon®	Montreal, QC
October 10-12, 2023	SPE Vinyltec	Akron, OH
October 23-26, 2023	SPE Thermoforming Conference	Cleveland, OH

SPE BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS ARE DESIGNED BY PLASTICS PROFESSIONALS FOR PLASTICS PROFESSIONALS.

- » **STAY INFORMED** – read *PLASTICS ENGINEERING* magazine & *SPE NEWS* newsletter
- » **GET EDUCATED** – attend SPE events & webinars at discounted rates
- » **KEEP CURRENT** – watch new webinars and podcasts on the SPE YouTube channel
- » **NETWORK & CONNECT** – Join the global conversation on SPE Communities Board

Check out these and other benefits at 4spe.org/benefits.





COUNCILOR'S REPORT FALL 2022

DR. SASSAN TARAHOMI
SPE DETROIT SECTION COUNCILOR



A virtual SPE Council Meeting was held on October 31, 2022, with Dr. Jason Lyons, SPE President welcoming more the 51 attendees (mostly Councilors). This was the last Councilor meeting for Dr. Lyons. The next meeting will be at ANTEC 2023 with Bruce Mulholland presiding as the SPE President.

Dr. Lyons presented a slide on 2021 SPE Vision and Mission and explained the SPE Impact, Value, Operational Excellence and Inclusivity.

SPE in 2021 and Beyond

Vision

- Inspiring the world with plastics.

Mission

- Supporting the development of plastics professionals so they can learn from each other and inspire positive change for society and the planet.

Impact

- SPE strives to continually expand its reach while capitalizing on new markets and opportunities that support its Mission.

Value

- SPE enhances the experience for its stakeholders, creating a culture of giving back to the organization while optimizing professional and personal development.

Operational Excellence

- SPE's organizational structures and internal operations provide for the effective deployment of resources to deliver superior service to its constituents.

Inclusivity

- SPE embraces the inclusion of all voices within its community.

Diagram elements: Enriched Education, Increased Engagement & Networking, Creative Knowledge Sharing

Next, Dr. Lyons talked about the how the SPE Foundation's new partnership with the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas was enhancing the reputation of SPE. This partnership created a positive plastics education program about polymeric materials and color science so girls could earn a **COLOR YOUR WORLD WITH POLYMER SCIENCE** patch.



Girl Scouts in Dallas Texas spent a day with the PlastiVan to earn their Polymer Science patch



Dr. Lyons further explained SPE's new **ESSENTIALS OF MANAGEMENT & LEADERSHIP IN PLASTICS** six-month virtual program starting in October 2022 and running through March 2023. This program is intended for early to mid-level career professionals looking to become leaders at their companies and in the plastics industry. No other Leadership Certificate program exists that is specifically designed for those in the plastics industry.

Next, Pat Farrey, SPE CEO talked about Knowledge Sharing and the new SPE staff member Dr. Ivan Lopez hired to lead the program. Pat further explained the launch of the SPE "Weeks of Learning" with tutorials and presentations about Coloring Plastics, Flame Retardants, Injection Molding, Plastics Processing, Rotational Molding, and Building and Infrastructure.

Dr. Lyons, continued with a slide about the increased engagement and networking of members. He explained that SPE had nine (9) events in 2020, 24 events in 2021 and 50 events for 2022.

Following Dr. Lyons, Dr. Scott Eastman, SPE VP of Chapters, reviewed the SPE code of conduct to emphasize SPE's commitment to following the Code of Conduct at all activities. Please see page 14 for more information on the Code of Conduct.

Next, Dr. Jaime Gomez, SPE Immediate Past President covered the SPE Director election process and the efforts by SPE volunteers in running the election under his leadership. The SPE Executive Board has recommended Conor Carlin, the Managing Director at Illig North America for the position of the President-Elect and the election committee recommended four equally qualified candidates for the three council appointed directors. All four candidates were interviewed by the council members immediately after the Council meeting. The recommended candidates, Todd Bier, Account Manager, Palmer Holland, Inc., Praveen Boopalachandran, Research Scientist, Dow Chemical, Barry Morris, Managing Director, BA Morris Consulting, LLC and Lynzie Nebel, Upstream Quote Engineer, Cytivia. Dr. Gomez announced that the election will be on Monday, November 14 through Wednesday, November 16.

In closing, Dr. Jason Lyons thanked everyone for their time and dedication to SPE and announced the next Council meeting will be held at the 2023 SPE ANTEC on March 27, 2023, in Denver, CO.



Dr. Sarah Skidmore

A promotional graphic for PlastiVideo. On the right, a young boy with dark hair, wearing a purple polo shirt and a white hard hat with the 'Dow Chemical' logo, smiles. The background is a dark blue field with large, stylized white and orange molecular or network structures. On the left, the 'spe PlastiVideo' logo is displayed in white and green, with the tagline 'changing the perception of plastics one classroom at a time' and 'Sponsored in part by spe DETROIT'. Below the logo, the text reads: 'PlastiVan® has shifted gears to PlastiVideo™!', 'If you'd like to sponsor a visit or bring virtual plastics education to your community contact us.', 'Julie Proctor, PlastiVan Program Coordinator', 'jproctor@4spe.org', and 'www.plastivideo.org'.



CODE OF CONDUCT

DR. SASSAN TARAHOMI
SPE DETROIT SECTION COUNCILOR



My dear SPE members, the **SPE Code of Conduct** was developed to ensure SPE members conduct themselves in a professional manner at SPE events or better yet, at any event. The SPE Code of Conduct is available on the SPE website and is printed here in its entirety for your reference. Please read it and abide by it. It's our code of conduct and we need to adhere to it completely when we meet virtually or in person, be it a meeting or an event.

Following a Code of Conduct allows SPE to create the best experience possible for all attendees.

EXPECTED BEHAVIOR:

- Exercise consideration and respect in your speech and actions.
- Attempt collaboration before conflict.
- Refrain from demeaning, discriminatory, or harassing behavior and speech.
- Be mindful of your surroundings and of your fellow participants. Alert SPE staff if you notice a dangerous situation, someone in distress, or violations of this Code of Conduct, even if they seem inconsequential.
- While at an SPE event no participant should engage in harassment in any form.

Sanctions may range from verbal warning to ejection from the meeting without refund, to notifying appropriate authorities. Retaliation for complaints of inappropriate conduct will not be tolerated. If a participant observes inappropriate comments or actions and personal intervention seems appropriate and safe, they should be considerate of all parties before intervening. Participants asked to stop any harassing behavior are expected to comply immediately.

REPORTING AN INCIDENT:

Alert SPE staff if you notice or experience a dangerous situation or a violation of this Code of Conduct, or see someone in distress even if it seems inconsequential during the event. Please seek out the nearest SPE team member to escalate your complaint. If you see, overhear or experience a violation of the Code of Conduct during an event, please seek out the nearest SPE team member to escalate your complaint. If you cannot find a team member or would like to report a violation after an event, you may email wecare@4spe.org.

EVENT CODE OF CONDUCT

All attendees, speakers, sponsors, vendors, partners, SPE staff and volunteers at ANTEC® and its events, or any SPE event that is virtual or live, are required to adhere to the following Code of Conduct. Event organizers will enforce this Code throughout the SPE events.

Our aim in hosting an SPE event is to build a stronger community. Our goal is to create an environment where everyone feels welcome to participate, speak up, ask questions, and engage in conversation. This requires a harassment free and inclusive environment that recognizes the inherent worth of every participant. We invite all those who participate in an SPE event to help us create a safe and positive experiences for everyone.

We are dedicated to providing a harassment-free environment for everyone, regardless of gender, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation, disability, physical appearance, body size, race, ethnicity, or religion (or lack thereof), marital status, nationality, political affiliation, ability status, educational background, or any other characteristic protected by law. We do not tolerate harassment of participants in any form. Harassment includes but is not limited to inappropriate or intimidating behavior and language, unwelcome jokes or comments, unwanted touching or attention, offensive images, photography without permission, and stalking. Disruptive or harassing behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. Sexual language and imagery are not appropriate during any aspect of the event/conference, including talks, workshops, parties, social media such as Twitter, or other online media.



SPE DETROIT TECHNICAL PROGRAM PCS PLANT TOUR

34488 DOREKA DR, FRASER, MI 48026

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2023 TIME: 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Remarks by **ANGELA ELSEY**, *President of PCS*
followed by **PLANT TOUR**



PCS Company is a team of industry experts providing solutions and innovative products for the plastic injection molding, mold making, and die casting industries. We are committed to our mission of being the industry's leading provider of high-quality, competitively priced products and services while providing the highest level of customer service.

Together, we create solutions for the advancement of life improving products. We collaborate together with our vendors and customers to ultimately reach the end market of consumers in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible. It is a true success to see our passion come to life in the consumption of goods and know we played a role in the betterment of lives through innovative products and processes.

AGENDA:

- 5:00 PM Registration and Networking
- 6:00 PM Dinner
- 6:30 PM Welcome and PCS Introduction – Kelly Beauchamp
- 6:45 PM Remarks from Angela Elsey, President of PCS
- 7:30 PM Plant Tour
- 8:00 PM Program Closing

ABOUT ANGELA ELSEY

Angela Elsey was promoted to president of PCS effective April 1, 2022 after serving as director of finance for PCS since 2019. She holds an Associate's degree in Business Administration and Management from Macomb Community College, a BS in Finance from Oakland University and after starting her MBA studies at Purdue University received her MBA at University of Michigan – Flint after a job relocation. She recently (July 25, 2022) was profiled in Plastics News magazine as a "Women Breaking the Mold" and participated in the Women Breaking the Mold conference in Nashville in November 2022.

COST: Free for SPE members, students and faculties. \$10 for non SPE members
RSVP: Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at [karen\(at\)spedetroit.com](mailto:karen(at)spedetroit.com) or call (248) 244-8993 Ext 3

Irvin Emerson Poston

1933 - 2021



in Loving MEMORY

IRVIN EMERSON POSTON was born on January 5, 1933, to his parents W. Irvin Poston and Martha Barnhill Poston of Attica, Indiana. He peacefully passed away on May 30, 2021 in Southfield, Michigan. He was the loving father of Janet Poston, Patricia Tribby (Scott), Steven Poston (Kathy), and David Poston (Barb), and is also survived by his grandchildren Lisa Davis, Karyn Ledbetter, Benjamin Tribby, Laura Tribby, Jake Poston, Allison Poston, Monica Poston, Katherine Poston, Kelly Poston, Donald Poston, Henry Poston, and his great-granddaughter Lily Davis. He was preceded in death by his wife of 62 years, Lois Little Poston, and by his sister Margaret "Peggy" Poston.

During his years in Attica, Irv was known as "Sonny". At the age of twelve he began to play the drums and marimba, and he continued to play percussion instruments for as long as his health allowed. Around the same time, "Sonny" became interested in magic, and he and his friend Jerry established the Poston & Clements Magic Show. They performed at a variety of venues until their graduation from High School. Irv continued to perform the same tricks and tell the same corny jokes for the next 65 years at birthday parties, family reunions, and church events. As a child, he also developed a love for model trains, and he collected new engines and train cars



In its 44th year, The Gold Award has honored presidents of companies and leaders of industry, professors and engineers, entrepreneurs and innovators for their dedication and commitment to their professions.

— 2015 Gold Award Recipient, Irvin E. Poston, PE, FESD

for the remainder of his life. Irv kept a very busy schedule during his high school years. He was active in Student Council, Band, Glee Club, Latin Club, and Sci-Math Club. Summers were spent at Culver Academy in northern Indiana. During this time he won many awards in music and math competitions. Irv E. Poston graduated from Attica High School in 1950 as the class valedictorian.

After high school Irv attended Purdue University in nearby West Lafayette, Indiana. He played snare drum in the Purdue Marching Band and played timpani in the Symphony Band. Irv also joined Sigma Nu Fraternity and other, as well as several scholastic and honorary fraternities. In 1954 he graduated from Purdue with a degree in Mechanical Engineering, and married Lois Little of Lowell, Indiana a few weeks later. Irv added a master's degree in Industrial Engineering in 1955 and that summer began work as an engineer at the Allison Division of General Motors in Speedway, Indiana. In 1958, Irv was transferred to General Motor's new Technical Center in Warren, Michigan.

He became a pioneer in the field of plastics, and over the years earned the reputation of being one of the world's leading



Irv Receiving SPE Award, 2016

experts on plastics and composites. Irv was Manager of Plastics/Composites for GM during most of his professional career, and



Technical Dinner Meeting Sept 16, 2013 at Schoolcraft College



Irv Having Fun Despite Covid-19 Quarantine, July 2020

gave speeches throughout the U.S. and Europe regarding the application of plastic in the automobile industry. Over the years he received numerous awards from the Society of Plastics Engineers and the Engineering Society of Detroit. Irv retired from GM at the end of 1996.

Beyond his profession, Irv was very active at the First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, serving as an Elder and Deacon, chairing various committees, and sharing his musical talents. He also contributed a significant amount of time to the Furniture Resource Center of Pontiac. However, Irv always found time to spend with his family and enjoy his hobbies. In 1982, Irv and Lois purchased a condominium in South Haven, Michigan, and they tried to spend as much time there as possible until their mobility became limited. Irv especially loved to visit the local bakery each morning, and make hot fudge sundaes each night. He also enjoyed taking his grandchildren to feed the ducks. After over 62 years of marriage, Irv's wife Lois died in 2017.

Later that year Irv moved into Sunrise Senior Living in Bloomfield, Michigan. He thrived at Sunrise and became involved with activities including baking, gardening, arts & crafts, and Bingo. Unfortunately, his health declined during the isolation of the 2020 pandemic, and he was moved to a Nursing Home in 2021.

During the course of his life Irv's hobbies include opera, classical music, computers, audio-visual equipment, model trains, magic, playing bridge, and playing timpani with the Pontiac and Rochester Symphonies. To his family and friends, the life of Irv Poston will always be associated with plastics, magic, trains, computers, and hot fudge sundaes. But more importantly he will be remembered for his kind and loving spirit, his sense of humor, and his devotion to his family!

A memorial service was held at noon on Monday June 7, 2021 at the First Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Michigan. Memorial tributes to Skyline Camp and Retreat Center or Furniture Bank of Southeastern Michigan.

A Tribute to a Good Friend and SPE Colleague

Irv Poston, long-time SPE Detroit Section board member, great supporter of plastics and composite materials, and a friend to many of us passed away in May 2021.

Irv retired from a successful career at General Motors in 1996 but he continued his volunteer work with his church, SPE and played timpani with the Pontiac and Rochester Symphonies. He was a renowned plastics expert worldwide. He received the SPE Fellow Award in 2014. He is the father of automobile polyurethane bumper. He was behind the conversion of automobile bumpers from steel to polyurethane.

Irv was a SPE Detroit Section emeritus board member. He was responsible for preparing the Newsbrief – Trends & Topics e-communication and the Elections and Nominations Committee for the SPE Detroit Section. He was a dedicated board member who loved being an SPE member. Even though he moved to a retirement home in late 2017, he continued to fulfill his responsibilities and even attended many SPE board meetings, events and gatherings by getting a ride from his close friend Dr. Norm Kakarala.

He is gone, but he is not forgotten. His calm and gentle voice of wisdom will always be with us to guide us.

– Dr. Sassan Tarahomi



SPE DETROIT 2022-2023 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The **SPE DETROIT EDUCATION COMMITTEE** awarded **\$47,450 IN SCHOLARSHIPS** to thirteen students from three Michigan universities for the 2022-2023 school year. Ferris State University took the top spot with six awards, including the new Pete Grelle scholarship which went to Carter Doran. Michigan State University had four awardees including Abdo Korayem, SPE Detroit Future Leader Scholar, and Alex Kepros, Delta Polymers Scholar, and Kettering University had three awardees including Kimberly Betty, Reginald Bell Scholar, and Tanisha Francis, SPE Detroit Women to Watch 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 [MillerTL\(at\)comcast.net](mailto:MillerTL(at)comcast.net).

2022 SPE DETROIT TOP SCHOLARS

INAUGURAL PETE GRELLE AWARD RECIPIENT

CARTER DORAN

Ferris State University, Plastics Engineering Technology – \$6,000

“Let me start off by saying thank you so much for this scholarship. This really means a lot and will help me so much with the remainder of my schooling.” – Carter Doran

“I would like to express my sincere thanks to the SPE Detroit Section for a most amazing and thoughtful memorial to my dear beloved Pete who so enjoyed being a part of various SPE activities and functions for so many years. This scholarship is indeed a special honor as education in plastics was so very important to him! He enjoyed teaching and sharing his knowledge with his students at Schoolcraft College as well as training workshops with engineers and technicians at Ford and other plastics companies.

I hope that we will have an opportunity to meet at a future SPE function so that I may personally thank everyone involved in making this scholarship possible.

Again, thank you and SPE for honoring Pete in such a special way! I know he would have been so very touched by this.

Sincerely, Angela Grelle”





4TH ANNUAL WOMEN TO WATCH AWARD RECIPIENT

TANISHA FRANCIS
Kettering University, Computer Engineering — \$6,500

"Thank you so very much. I am beyond grateful and honored to receive this prestigious award. I look forward to meeting you and the rest of the team at the family recognition event." — **Tanisha Francis**

8TH ANNUAL REGINALD BELL AWARD RECIPIENT

KIMBERLY BETTY
Kettering University, Mechanical Engineering — \$5,500

"Thank you very much. I am very happy to have been selected for this award." — **Kimberly Betty**



8TH ANNUAL DELTA POLYMERS AWARD RECIPIENT

ALEX KEPREOS
Michigan State University, Civil Engineering — \$4,500

"I am honored and humbled to be receiving this opportunity. Thank you and the whole committee so very much!" — **Alex Kepreos**

6TH ANNUAL FUTURE LEADERS AWARD RECIPIENT

ABDO KORAYEM
Michigan State University, Civil Engineering — \$6,500

"I am beyond grateful for your consideration and recognition! I will most certainly be using this award as the leg up that will keep me going forward to greater lengths. With greatest gratitude." — **Abdo Korayem**



HONORING MORE SPE DETROIT SCHOLARS

GRADUATE STUDENTS



SYED FAHED HASSAN
Michigan State University,
Mechanical Engineering – \$2,750



CHELSEA WALTERS
Kettering University,
Industrial Engineering – \$2,500

5TH YEAR SENIORS



MICHAEL ROGOWSKI
Ferris State University,
Plastics & Polymer Engineering Technology
– \$2,500



NOLAN HOUGHTELING
Michigan State University,
Mechanical Engineering – \$2,500

SENIOR



JARED HEGENAUER
Ferris State University,
Plastics & Polymer Engineering Technology
– \$2,500

JUNIORS



HALEY DOBBYN
Ferris State University,
Plastics & Polymer Engineering Technology
– \$2,200



KRISTYN KENNEDY
Ferris State University,
Plastics & Polymer Engineering Technology – \$2,000

SOPHOMORE



ROBERT HENDRICKSON
Ferris State University,
Plastics & Polymer Engineering Technology
– \$1,500

SPE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP REPORT



2022 SPE DETROIT SECTION SCHOLARSHIP REPORT



Dear SPE Detroit Section,

The SPE Foundation is pleased to share a report of your 2022 SPE Detroit Section Scholarships. Thank you for supporting these outstanding scholars.

Togegther, we awarded 77 scholarships to 51 individuals totaling \$191,875 in 2022. We appreciate your contribution to this impact and are especially grateful for your continued collaboration.

Dan, Kayla, Zachary, Michael and Jimon benefit greatly from your support and generosity, as demonstrated in their thank you notes. We hope you enjoy reading about your impact and their educational and career goals.

Thank you for your continued investment in our future workforce!

Sincerely,

Eve Vitale, Chief Executive
SPE Foundation



Past Detroit Section Scholars

2020	Kizazeal Forsyth <i>Robert Dailey Scholar</i> \$2,500	2021	Michaela Gibson <i>Robert Dailey Scholar</i> \$2,500	2022	Dan Struble <i>Robert Dailey Scholar</i> \$2,125
	Sophia Hagans <i>Norm Kakarala Scholar</i> \$2,500		Elizabeth DeFazio <i>Norm Kakarala Scholar</i> \$2,500		Kayla Riebe <i>Norm Kakarala Scholar</i> \$2,125
	Justin Salyers <i>Tom Powers Scholar</i> \$2,500		Brooke Lenhardt <i>Tom Powers Scholar</i> \$2,500		Zachary Newman <i>Tom Powers Scholar</i> \$2,125
	Alessandro Perego <i>Irv Poston Scholar</i> \$2,500		Aparna Agrawal <i>Irv Poston Scholar</i> \$2,500		Michael Knoblauch <i>Irv Poston Scholar</i> \$2,000
\$30,375 Total Awards 2020-2022					Jomin Thomas <i>Irv Poston Scholar</i> \$2,000

SCHOLARS



DAN STRUBLE

ROBERT DAILEY SCHOLAR

Dan Struble is a senior at Western Washington University in the Plastics and Composites Engineering program, which emphasizes hands-on experience with a wide range of metal and composites manufacturing techniques, plastics processing, and polymer chemistry and characterization. Originally drawn to the program to work on recovered ocean plastics recycling, his interests have expanded to include the development of readily recyclable materials, mechanical and chemical recycling, and science communication. Dan is tentatively planning to pursue these interests in graduate school next year. His current research is in synthesis and characterization of new bio-based, stimulus-responsive monomers for targeted degradation of high-performance thermoset networks.

"As a recipient of the Detroit Section Robert Dailey Scholarship, I am thrilled. Thank you for making this extremely benevolent award possible. In addition to the financial assistance that this scholarship provides, the recognition of my efforts at Western over the last year and a half by being deemed worthy of such an honor is a gift unto itself, and I cannot thank you enough for facilitating this scholarship. The Plastics and Composites Engineering program at Western has proven a remarkably good fit for me. Next year I will be continuing my research on novel synthesis methods for stimulus-responsive thermosetting monomers with Solvay while also pursuing my senior capstone project. Hopefully I have shown that I take what we do in the program very seriously and how being awarded some financial flexibility to allow me to take full advantage of the opportunities afforded by our incredible program at Western is an amazing gift and an honor. I am humbled by and very appreciative of your generous contribution. Thank you so much for making this possible."

Kayla is a fifth-year senior in the chemical engineering program at the University of Akron where she maintains a 3.71 GPA. Kayla is also pursuing a minor in polymer science and polymer engineering. In her second year, she completed two semesters of undergraduate independent research in the polymer engineering department. Kayla has also used her time at UA to get involved with campus organizations, including the University of Akron's student chapter of the Society of Women Engineers. Kayla spent 2021 as an engineering co-op at Peak Nano. While working there, she led a customer project for Lazurite Holdings LLC. Kayla then spent the summer of 2022 working at Lazurite, a medical technology company changing the face of minimally invasive surgery with their innovative technologies. Upon graduation, she is hoping to use her degree to work with polymers and their practical applications in order to improve the quality of people's everyday lives.



KAYLA RIEBE

NORM KAKARALA SCHOLAR

"I am very thankful to have been awarded the Detroit Section Norm Kakarala Scholarship that will allow me to complete my degree in chemical engineering at the University of Akron. I began the Chemical Engineering Program in August of 2018 and expect to graduate in May 2023. Upon graduation, I hope to pursue a career that utilizes polymers to improve the quality of peoples' everyday lives. With the arrival of COVID-19, my mom, who has a lung condition, retired early from her nursing job. She is no longer able to assist me with educational expenses as she has done in the past. I am a hard worker and am serious about my education. I have maintained a 3.71 GPA through pandemic learning. I sincerely appreciate your generous assistance in helping me to achieve my educational goals."



ZACHARY NEWMAN

TOM POWERS SCHOLAR

Zachary Newman is a senior at the University of Alabama at Birmingham studying Materials Engineering. Zachary began his education as a Biomedical Engineering major until he was able to see the opportunities available with Materials. He has found a passion for polymers and composite materials through his research at the Materials Processing Application and Development Lab where he is researching rPET and learning how to increase its strength with glass fibers without experiencing thermal degradation. This upcoming year, Zachary hopes to be able to present his research in his undergraduate expo to not only promote sustainability through recycling but to shed light on materials engineering. This past year, he was the Pre-College Initiative chair for NSBE and helped promote STEM education to underrepresented groups at inner-city schools in Birmingham.

"Thank you for selecting me for this scholarship. It truly is a blessing for myself and my family. It means a lot to me since I've spent the last 3 years working in the plastics field in my internship. I want to support different ways of recyclability in materials engineering, with plastic being the number one challenge to overcome. I'm grateful that my research might be able to help in the plastics education of America. This scholarship eases the financial burden while also letting me focus on finishing my research to present in our undergraduate expo as well as hopefully publishing an academic paper. I am so grateful for this opportunity, and I hope to continue to be in contact with SPE for future academic and career opportunities."



Michael Knoblauch attends Case Western Reserve University and is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Macromolecular Science and Engineering. Michael is also working full-time for Avient, a specialty polymer manufacturer, as a scale-up engineer. His job is to bring newly developed products and formulas from the R&D team and scale them up to commercial manufacturing processes. Michael hopes to leverage his education and position to help bring many new sustainable and environmentally friendly products to market.

"Thank you very much for selecting me as the recipient of the SPE Foundation Detroit Section Irv Poston Scholarship. I feel very fortunate to have received this award and I'm sincerely grateful for the Detroit Section's generosity. This award will help me to pursue my Master's degree in Macromolecular Science and Engineering at Case Western Reserve University. I hope to help transition the plastics industry to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future and this award will help me gain the valuable polymer knowledge to pursue my goals. Thank you, again, for the consideration and support!"



Jomin Thomas is a polymer enthusiast and technologist. With an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from India, his passion for polymers started during his internship across the plastics companies in India and Saudi Arabia. With a start off to an industrial career as an intern in Asian Paints Limited which culminated in a permanent researcher position in the Research and Development center, he has worked on sustainable raw material synthesis for coatings. Currently, Jomin is pursuing his doctoral degree in Polymer Engineering as a member of Dr. Mark D. Soucek's Research Group at the University of Akron.

"I am excited and greatly honored to be a recipient of SPE Foundation Detroit Section Irv Poston Scholarship. The appreciation and recognition provided by SPE Foundation scholarships inspires students working on polymers. This award has given me an enormous boost to continue my research in bio-composites, to help bring green products into the marketplace, and to meet the increasing demand for sustainable lightweight material having superior performance and lesser carbon footprint. My PhD research has a major thrust towards polymer sustainability with biobased composites for automotive industry and alternative sustainable solutions for tire industry, all of which are derived from seed oils and biomass-fillers. Moreover, having our research work recognized by SPE is a huge step towards the possibilities of opening new industrial applications. Thank you."



FOUNDATION

SPE FOUNDATION

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SCHOLARS

Thank you



2022 TPO RECAP

NEIL FUENMAYOR, 2022 CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

The 2022 TPO Conference was a great success thanks to our 54 sponsors, 60+ presenters, 47 planning volunteers, and 615 attendees! The theme of sustainability and future mobility was covered by 5 keynotes, 7 technical sessions and 2 tutorials.

This year we added a new component and welcomed students who are part of the Ecotek Lab in Detroit compete in a poster contest. Many of the student presenters (aged 13-17) were awarded Arkema SPE Junior Researcher funds by the SPE Foundation which were used to enhance their projects on display.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE!

- Mark Allen – Dow
- Nancy Cliff – BASF
- Bill Coy – Mankiewicz Coatings, LLC
- Drew Geda – Hyundai-Kia America Tech. Center
- Mark Lapain – Advanced Composites Inc.
- Dr. John Mara – Amfine Chemical Corp.
- Dr. Dave Patel – Mitsubishi Chemical
- Mark Pilette – Magna Exteriors
- Murali Reddy – CpK
- Andrew Sanders – Borealis Compounds
- Dr. Bhavesh Shah – Lion Elastomers
- Matt Sprouse – Washington Penn Plastic Co.
- Beth Talaga – Dow Chemical
- Austin Wagenhals – Ford Motor Company
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- Charlie Yang – LyondellBasell



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 Charlie Yang, LyondellBasell
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PROCESS ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

Matt Sprouse, Washington Penn Plastics Co., Inc
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The SPE Detroit Section – “Where It All Began!”

The Detroit Section (#001) is the birthplace of the Society of Plastics Engineers. Fred Conley, our Section’s first president was also the 1942 SPE President. We’re proud to be the charter chapter of this global organization. In 2013 we merged with the Mid-Michigan Section and we serve 63 of Michigan’s 83 counties and 600+ members.

The Detroit Section is proud of its 21 Fellows of the Society, 37 Honored Service Members and its five distinguished members: Fred Conley, 1942 SPE President; Henry Wojtaszek, 1979 SPE President; Greg R. Thom, 1986 SPE President; Dr. Brian G. Landes, 2019 SPE President; Irv E. Poston - one of only six Distinguished Members who were not President of the Society.

The Detroit Section’s Mission is to be active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments – particularly in the automotive industry.

Detroit SPE works tirelessly to deliver successful programs, gaining funds for our educational initiatives. In the last 20 years our contribution to plastics education has grown well over \$1,000,000.

SPE® TPO Global Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference The SPE® TPO Global Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference began in 1999 and has become the world’s leading automotive polyolefins forum, drawing 900 attendees from 20 countries on four continents. The conference provides the latest innovative developments in polyolefin materials, processes, and application technologies, as well as a growing range of TPEs and TPVs.

AutoEPCON First held in 2006, the Automotive Engineering Plastics Conference features technical presentations on the newest advances in materials technology, predictive engineering, process enhancements, and application developments for thermoplastic and thermoset engineering plastics for the automotive industry and includes plenary and keynote addresses from industry leaders.



SPE Detroit Section Scholarships To support the future of plastics, the Section consistently awards \$30,000-\$60,000+ in annual scholarships to local students. Our named scholarships range from \$4000 to \$6000: the Future Leaders Scholarship, the Women to Watch Scholarship, the Professor Reginald Bell Scholarship, and the Delta Polymers Scholarship.

SPE Foundation Scholarships The Detroit Section has funded four SPE Foundation Scholarships honoring Norm Kakarala, Thomas E. Powers, Robert G. Dailey, and Irv Poston

PlastiVan® SPE Detroit has consistently been the largest sponsor of PlastiVan® giving over \$500,000 to the program, and in 2020 contributing \$60K to the PlastiVideo™ program, earning co-branding rights to help change the perception of plastics one classroom at a time.

“Wonders of Plastic” Essay Contest With the Mid-Michigan Section merger, the SPE Detroit essay contest has grown to include northern and southern divisions. Middle and high school students compete for cash prizes by writing an essay on a plastics subject of their choice.

Christmas Toy Program The initial collaboration with American Plastic Toys, Inc. to manufacture toys for Toys for Tots led to a significant milestone in 2016 when after 18 years the 1,000,000th Toy was presented to a 3-year-old girl.

For additional information please contact:

Neil Fuenmayor
President
Fuenmayor.Neil@gmail.com
+1 (517) 898-7117