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PETER GRELLE
PETER GRELLE 1952 – 2022

A Tribute to Peter Grelle

It is with heavy hearts we announce the loss of our dear friend and longtime SPE Detroit Section and Injection Molding Division Board member, Peter F. Grelle, who passed away on Thursday August 11, 2022. Peter was a light in this world, and now we need to continue shining his light by carrying it within us in our own lives.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEIL FUENMAYOR, AUTOMOTIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT MANAGER,
NORTH AMERICA LYONDELLBASELL



I am honored and proud to be SPE Detroit Section President for 2022-23, as we continue to celebrate SPE's 80th Year! As many of you know, the Society of Plastics Engineers started with the Detroit Section back in 1942, so we are in fact celebrating our Section's 80th birthday at the same time. Thus, I'm especially humbled to be part of such an important organization, with a rich history and legacy, which continues to evolve as our world and industry changes. It is a privilege to serve, and

together with our members recognizing these past successes, we will strive to grow, creating new history for the future generations to build upon during the next 80 years. I hope you will join me in continuing to create and strengthen a great organization.

I'd like to thank the Board of Directors and our Executive Officers for their guidance, mentorship, and friendship, as I've participated in the process to become the Detroit Section President for this year. I'm fortunate to be surrounded by an experienced and motivated Board, and as I've already let them know, I'll be grateful and indebted for their guidance and support throughout my term. I'd like to especially recognize our two recent Presidents, my predecessor David Okonski for last year, and Dr. Laura Shereda who served two terms. Both individuals, along with our Board, presided over an unprecedented time in our history with a rapidly changing world due to the global pandemic and its effects and challenges it brought to all aspects of life.

The last two years have changed how we live and work, and what's important for us. We've adapted and grown as a result. However, I trust that volunteerism and participation in industry associations will continue to thrive, perhaps in new and yet unexplored ways. Organizations like the Detroit Section remain an essential component, giving back to the plastics industry and academia by delivering successful programs and gaining funds for our educational initiatives. In the last 20 years, our Section's contribution to plastics education has grown to well over \$1,000,000. At the same time SPE allows you to grow professionally, improving your knowledge and skills, and strengthening your networks. As stated in our

Mission, at our core, *we educate, promote, recognize, and communicate technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments – particularly in the automotive industry.*

“...if you want to get more involved and make a bigger difference in what we do and how we do it, please reach out to me or any Board member - we'd welcome your time and efforts.”

Over the years, I have been fortunate to build relationships with many of you, but for those that I have not met, I'll share a brief bit about myself and my ideas for this year. I've spent 34 years (and counting) in various rewarding technical and commercial roles in the automotive and plastics industry globally. I'm currently the Automotive Business Development Manager for LyondellBasell's Advanced Polymer Solutions organization, where I lead a team of six dedicated automotive OEM aligned business development managers for this region. I'm a Mechanical Engineer by academic training, with a master's degree in Polymer Science. I've also been extremely fortunate to have spent two stints living, learning, and working internationally in Italy and Germany for several years. I'm married and the proud father to a 10-year-old son.

During the next year, the Detroit Section Board and I will:

- *Solicit Input and Learn*
- *Foster Collaboration and Cooperation*
- *Focus on Creativity*
- *Reinforce Core Values and Our Mission*
- *Emphasize Trust and Transparency*
- *Nurture Growth*

If you have an ideas, suggestions, comments, or feedback (including constructive criticism), please contact me – I want to hear and learn from you. Most importantly, if want to get more involved and make a bigger difference in what we do and how we do it, please reach out to me or any Board member - we'd welcome your time and efforts.

Thank you to all our members for your continued participation in our professional organization, as well as our partners and sponsors for your appreciated support of the Detroit Section. The Annual SPE TPO Automotive Global Engineered Polyolefins Conference, which has become the world's leading automotive polyolefins forum, is back stronger than ever! Now in its 23rd year, we're happy to return to our coveted, live in-person networking and technical program format.

I'm looking forward to a great year, and I hope you will join me as we continue to *create our history* in this wonderful organization.

Thank you all,
Neil E. Fuenmayor

“As stated in our Mission, at our core, we educate, promote, recognize, and communicate technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments – particularly in the automotive industry.”

WE MAKE

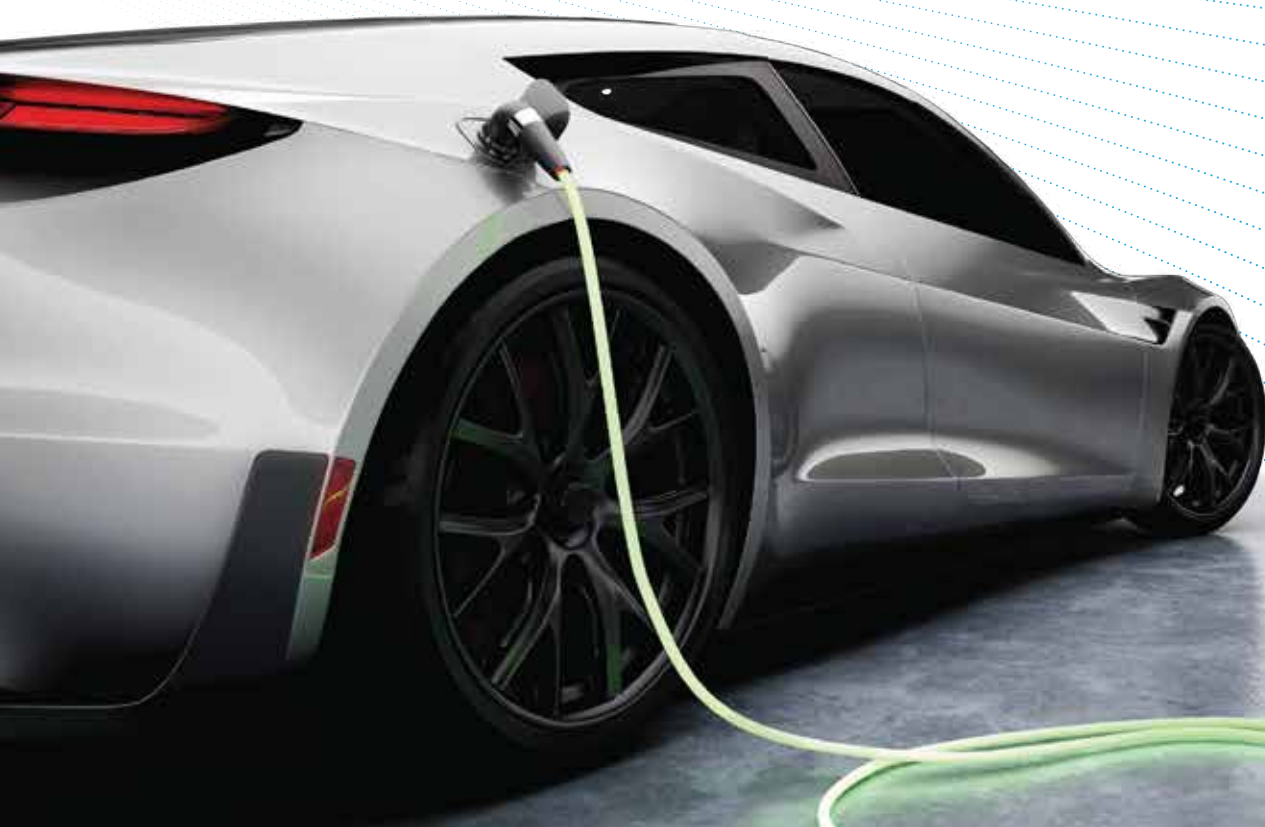
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PASSING THE FOOTBALL



On June 27, 2022, **David Okonski** passed the Detroit SPE presidential football to incoming president **Neil Fuenmayor**. Let the games begin!



While President of the Detroit Section, David Okonski appointed **Dr. Mary Gilliam** to a one-year appointment to the Board of Directors. Mary currently works as a GM Staff Researcher in the Manufacturing System Research Laboratory. Prior to working at GM, she was a Chemical Engineering faculty member at Kettering University. She has a composites background and is looking forward to serving.

2022 – 2023 PLANNED EVENTS

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

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
October 2-5, 2022	2022 TPO Conference	Detroit Marriott – Troy
October 17, 2022	SPE Detroit Executive Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
October 19-26, 2022	K-Show	Dusseldorf, Germany
November 2, 2022	Automotive Innovation Awards	Burton Manor, 27777 Schoolcraft Livonia 48150
November 7, 2022	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
December 12, 2022	SPE Detroit Executive Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
Day, Time TBD	December Appreciation Dinner	Location TBD
January 9, 2023	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
February 20, 2023	SPE Detroit Executive Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
March 13, 2023	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
April 17, 2023	SPE Detroit Executive Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
May 3, 2023	Auto EPCON	Detroit Marriott - Troy
May 8, 2023	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
June 19, 2023	SPE Detroit Section Board Meeting	5750 New King Dr, Ste. 120, Troy 48098
June 20, 2023	Golf Outing	Bay Pointe Golf Club



PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DAVID A. OKONSKI,
GENERAL MOTORS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER



On June 27th, the SPE Detroit Section held its annual business meeting where the first order of business was to transfer the role of President from me to Neil Fuenmayor. I wish Neil the best of luck as he enters his term, and I am fully confident that under his leadership the Detroit Section will continue to provide our membership with networking opportunities to transfer knowledge for not only the betterment of our local economy but for the overall benefit of the plastics

industry at large. Plastics provide much more benefit to the global economy than just light-weighting and part consolidation for electric vehicles, but it is all for naught if we do not tackle the sustainability issues surrounding single-use plastics, particularly in the automotive sector. That being said, much has to be taken into consideration as the Board deliberates its plans for the 2022/2023 fiscal year with regards to technical programming and budget allocation – Good Luck Neil!

The Past-President's Message provides me with the opportunity to reflect on the happenings and accomplishments of the past year as the Detroit Section emerged from the global pandemic; the Covid-19 pandemic certainly changed how we did business. In-person events, such as board meetings and conferences, became virtual. The location of such events was simply referred to as "ZOOM" this or that or "Teams" this or that or "CVENT" you get the idea. Virtual meetings and conferences quickly became ineffective for me (and many others) as a means of exchange as it was far too easy to be pulled away to deal with something of greater urgency to the "business;" eventually, apathy replaced excitement and enthusiasm. So, I entered my term as President with the goal of reigniting the Detroit Section's passion for plastics and made sure that every board member was engaged in some facet of Detroit Section business. Some board members engaged in public outreach activities through the Education Committee, but most helped with our conferencing efforts. I am happy to report that the Detroit Section re-established our in-person conferencing events with the successful execution of the 2022 Auto EPCON Conference on May 3rd. Re-establishing in-person conferences for the 2022 calendar year is the one thing that I am the most excited and happiest about. In my

opinion, in-person events, whether it be a meeting or a conference, are the most effective means of transferring ideas and technology, and I cannot wait to see what happens at the TPO Conference this coming October.

Finally, the last two and half years have been tough on all of us. Each of us have lost loved ones, best friends or colleagues that are simply irreplaceable. That statement is no less true for the Detroit Section where we have lost a wealth of knowledge and experience with the passing of Nippani Rao, Irv Poston, and with the recent passing of Pete Grelle. Each of these individuals dedicated much of their lives to the betterment of the plastics industry, and we owe each a great debt of gratitude. It is now our time to raise the "plastics" banner. I would ask each one of us to do a self-assessment – ask yourself two questions: 1) Why am I a member of SPE and the Detroit Section and 2) What value can I bring to the Detroit Section in the next two years. Will you become a Board member and be actively engaged in promoting the plastics industry? Will you join a conference organizing committee and help us plan technical events? Will you sponsor our conferences and attend our conferences to facilitate dialogue amongst peers? There are many ways that you can help make SPE, the Detroit Section, and the plastics industry better – just do something!!

Best Regards to All,

D. A. Okonski
SPE Detroit Section Past-President



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- » **GET EDUCATED** – attend SPE events & webinars at discounted rates
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- » **NETWORK & CONNECT** – Join the global conversation on SPE Communities Board

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





PETER GRELLE

PETER GRELLE
1952 – 2022

*Peter presents the SPE Detroit Section Awards
- September 2013 Technical Dinner Event at
Schoolcraft*

*Pete Received the SPE Detroit Section Lifetime
Achievement Award, Kettering University Technical
Dinner Event - September 14, 2015*

A Tribute to Peter Grelle

It is with heavy hearts we announce the loss of our dear friend and longtime SPE Detroit Section and Injection Molding Division Board member, Peter F. Grelle, who passed away on Thursday August 11, 2022. Peter was a light in this world, and now we need to continue shining his light by carrying it within us in our own lives.

Peter was a native of Lawrence, Massachusetts, born May 5, 1952, to the late Peter and Frances Grelle. He was a compassionate and caring man who loved and valued his family and friendships.

Peter loved the plastics industry and was involved in many professional societies, events, and conferences. His interest in plastics started while attending Lowell Technical Institute (now University of Massachusetts at Lowell). He decided to study Plastics Engineering based on a suggestion by his mother who was the first female injection molding machine operator in the General Tire Rubber Company in Lawrence, MA from 1934 to 1936. In 1974 Peter received his Bachelor of Science degree in Plastics

Technology and followed in 1980 with a Master of Science degree in Plastics Engineering.

He was employed in the plastics industry for more than 45 years, at the Dow Chemical Company for nearly 20 years, and prior to Dow was employed by the Monsanto Company, the Winchester Group of Olin Corporation, and Wellman Inc. Plastics Division.

He was the owner and president of Plastics Fundamentals Group LLC, a company specializing in Plastics Technology training, and an adjunct instructor in the Plastics Technology Program at Schoolcraft College, Livonia, MI.

Peter joined the Society of Plastics Engineers in 1972 and became a very active member. From 1993 to 1996 Peter served on the SPE Rochester NY Board of Directors. He served on the Board of the Injection Molding Division from 1991 until he passed away. He was the Chairperson of that Division in 1997-98. Since 1999, Peter served as the Technical Director of the Injection Molding Division and in 2000 he received the Division Engineer of the Year Award. In 2006 Peter received the SPE Honored Service Member Award.

In 2009 Peter became a member of the SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors and becoming President of the Section in 2013. In 2015, Peter received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the SPE Detroit Section.

In addition to the SPE activities, Peter was active in the Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) and served on the Structural Plastics Conference Committee from 1994 to 2007 becoming the Conference Chair from 1999 to 2001. In 2002 he received the SPI Industry Recognition Award for his contributions to the Structural Plastics Conference and the Structural Plastics Industry.

Peter held 4 U.S. and International patents and published 40 papers and articles in Plastics Technology.



2016 Future City Event Judging - Pete Grelle and Bob Petrach



FRIEND, COLLEAGUE, MENTOR

2013 Material Auction which Pete organized for the SPE Detroit Section

SPE Detroit Section Christmas Dinner - December 7, 2018

Peter was the 2019 SPE Detroit Section Outstanding Member. He was active in Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) and from 2009 – 2017 he participated in the SAE Detroit A World in Motion (AWIM) Program. In 2016, he received the Outstanding Contributions to AWIM award from the SAE Detroit Section.

Peter has been with the SPE, SPI and SAE for a long time. He will be greatly missed by all of us at SPE Detroit Section, SPE Injection Molding Division and SPE Automotive Division.

Read Pete's obituary here: Peter F. Grelle: <https://obits.pennlive.com/us/obituaries/name/peter-grelle-2019-01-06/obituary?id=36213145>

"Pete was a kind gentlemen and friend to us all."

"Pete was a great guy! He will truly be missed."

"Pete will be missed in many ways."

"He contributed so much to the Society."

What a lovable human being."

"No one is more lovable than Pete with his kindness and dedicated service."

"His absence will leave a gaping hole in the heart of Detroit SPE."



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.



The very first Plastic Course Certificate Ceremony where Peter, as the SPE Detroit Section president, presented the students their Certificate of Course Completion. Lots of Smiles!



SPE Detroit Section Board Members Meeting Wim Devos, SPE CEO at Marriott Troy - January 6, 2014



Key TPO Committee Members Thanking the Marriott Management team for their service and dedication to the TPO Conference - October 2013 after a successful TPO Conference



TPO® 2022 GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS CONFERENCE

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2022 PLANNING COMMITTEE

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EXTERIOR TRIM & STRUCTURAL APPLICATIONS

Mark Pilette, Magna Exteriors

Charlie Yang, LyondellBasell

Andrew Sanders, Borealis Compounds

PROCESS ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES

Matt Sprouse, Washington Penn
Plastics Co., Inc

Dr. Suresh Shah, SPE Fellow,
Plastics "Hall of Fame" Inductee

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS & PARTS

Mike Balow, Auxin Consulting, LLC

Murali Reddy, CpK

Mark Allen, Dow

POLYOLEFIN ELASTOMERS & VULCANIZATES

Dr. Bhavesh Shah, Lion Elastomers

Dr. Dave Patel, Mitsubishi Chemical

Dr. Nadeem Bokhari, Sumitomo Chemical

MATERIALS DEVELOPMENT

Mark Jablonka, Dow

Peter Glenister, LyondellBasell

Catherine Wilson, Ford Motor Company

PERFORMANCE ADDITIVES & COLORANTS

Nancy Cliff, BASF

Dr. John Mara, Amfine Chemical Co

INNOVATIONS IN AUTOMOTIVE INTERIORS

Dr. Pravin Sitaram, Haartz Corporation

Austin Wagenhals, Ford Motor Company

Hoa Pham, Sonoco Products Company

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John Haubert, Stellantis

Bill Windscheif, Advanced Innovative Solutions

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Dr. Norm Kakarala, Inteva Products LLC - retired

Mike Balow, Auxin Consulting, LLC

Dave Helmer, General Motors Co.

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David Okonski, General Motors Co.

STAFF SUPPORT

Karen Rhodes-Parker, SPE Detroit Section

CONFERENCE SECRETARY

Lyle Beadle, Advanced Innovation
Solutions, Ltd.

TREASURER

Tom Powers, Delta Polymers - Retired

HOUSE

Bill Windscheif, Advanced Innovation
Solutions, Ltd.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Bill Windscheif, Advanced Innovation
Solutions, Ltd.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Ermanno Ruccolo, Sumika Polymers NA

Sanjay Patel, SABIC

Dr. Norm Kakarala, Inteva Products, LLC -
Retired

Bill Windscheif, Advanced Innovation
Solutions, Ltd.

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, Alterra Holdings

David Okonski, General Motors Company

CONFERENCE FEEDBACK

John Haubert, Stellantis

Karen Rhodes-Parker, SPE Detroit Section

TECHNICAL SESSION COORDINATION

Bill Coy, Mankiewicz Coatings, LLC

PROCEEDINGS BOOK

Jill Houser, JPI Creative

Laura Shereda, Asahi Kasei Plastics

Dr. Norm Kakarala, Inteva Products, LLC -
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Karen Rhodes-Parker, SPE Detroit Section

Jill Houser, JPI Creative

AUDIO/VIDEO

Rob Philp, Sirmax

Mark Allen, Dow

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WEBSITE

Rob Philp, Sirmax

Rob Smuck, Big Water Media

Lyle Beadle, Advanced Innovative Solutions, Ltd.

David Okonski, General Motors Co.

Rob Philp, Sirmax

Karen Rhodes-Parker, SPE Detroit Section

2022 SPE TPO STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION



Keith Young, Ecotek Labs

The SPE Foundation and Ecotek Lab have committed to a 10-year partnership to offer equitable STEM experiences related to the plastics and composites industry for the students of Detroit. This includes research stipends for student projects, positive plastics education through the PlastiVan®, access to SPE conferences, and more.

ECOTEK
Science at Work!

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

Student posters will be displayed in Niles I & II
Judging from 3:00-4:00pm

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5

Winners announced at 10:00am



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Ecotek Lab: Keith Young at ecoteklab@gmail.com
PlastiVan/SPE Foundation: Eve Vitale at evitale@4spe.org

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ROBERT "BOB" PETRACH

SPE HONORED SERVICE MEMBER



SPE Detroit Section President Neil Fuenmayor Presents Honored Service Member Award to Bob Petrach

Congratulations to Bob Petrach!

Society of Plastics Engineers
Honored Service Member

SPE Honored Service Member Bylaw

To be elected an Honored Service Member, a candidate shall have been awarded the President's Cup or have demonstrated long-term, outstanding service to, and support of, the Society and its objectives; shall be sponsored, in writing, by the Board of Directors of at least one Section or Division, or by a Committee of the Society organized for this purpose; and have been a member in good standing for six years. Honored Service Members shall be elected by a two-thirds majority of a committee established for that purpose. The level of Honored Service Members shall at no time exceed one-twentieth of the voting members in good standing of the Society.



Date: August 26, 2019

Subject- HSM SPONSOR STATEMENT- Robert V. Petrach, Jr.

I have known Robert V. Petrach Jr (Bob) for over ten (10) years. During that period, he has been a valued member of the SPE Detroit Section. Since that time, Bob has made many contributions to the Detroit Section that have added to the success of the Detroit Section and SPE International.

As Detroit Section President, Bob established relationships with several other SPE Divisions, including the Injection Molding Division (IMD) and the Mold Technology Division (MTD). These relationships included sponsorship of several Detroit Section initiatives, such as the SPE TPO Conference and AutoEPCON Conferences. Outside the SPE, Bob developed a relationship between the SPE and the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) resulting in educational opportunities and training in plastics to several key SME chapters within the Detroit, Michigan area. In addition, Bob led a team of several SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors members in a joint program with the Engineering Society of Detroit (ESD), from which the Detroit Section became active participants in the Future City Program, a middle school project-based program which involves building a city of the future. This program includes educating students in the use of plastics in their city of the future. The SPE Detroit Section has been publicly recognized by the ESD for all their participation and support of the Future City Program.

The TPO Conference is one of the major programs supported by the Detroit Section. As Section President, Bob, with the support of the Detroit Section Board of Directors, backed the TPO Conference Committee's decision to change conference venues to accommodate more attendees. As a result, the conference realized increased revenues and a 30% increase in conference attendance.

Part of the membership of the SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors includes an Emeritus Committee, a committee made up of long time active SPE Members and Detroit Section Board Members. Their major and important role is to act as an Advisory Board to the Detroit Section Board of Directors. As President, Bob expanded the Emeritus Committee with the addition of two (2) individuals, Norm Kakarala and the late

Ron Price, who are/were both highly regarded within both the plastics and automotive industries.

As Section Secretary, Bob organized a program that trained new and incoming Board officers in the use of new electronic tools used for improving communications with SPE International, which included submission of financial reports and meeting minutes. This program improved the quality of reporting and response time for submitting reports to SPE International.

As Membership Chairperson, Bob created two programs, the Member Welcome Program and Renewals Reminder Program. The purpose of these programs was to both welcome new members to SPE and to reactivate former SPE members who had let their membership expire. This program resulted in an increase of new member participation in Technical Dinner Meetings, Plant Tours, and involvement in the Detroit Section Next Gen Programs. Additionally, several members, whose memberships expired due to job loss and/or other personal reasons, renewed their memberships which boosted SPE Membership.

As Advertising Chairperson, Bob led and directed a committee to establish new sponsors for the Detroit Section Newsletter. From 2009-2012, the Detroit Section saw reduced revenues from advertising sponsors due to poor business conditions in the Detroit and Michigan area. This jeopardized the future of the newsletter, a main communication link to Detroit Section Members. Thanks to Bob and his committee, revenues turned around over a two (2) year period, resulting in a 30% increase in revenues to the Detroit Section, and fortifying our communication link to our Section members.

Based on the information provided, both the SPE Detroit Section Board of Directors and I strongly support and recommend Bob Petrach as a recipient of the prestigious 2020 SPE Honored Service Award.

Sincerely,

Peter F. Grelle

Owner/President, Plastics Fundamentals Group, LLC

Adjunct Instructor, Plastics Technology Program, Schoolcraft College, Livonia, MI.

2019- 2020 Awards Chairperson, SPE Detroit Section



changing the perception of plastics one classroom at a time

Sponsored in part by **Braskem**

The Detroit Section supports 35 PlastiVan® visits a year in its geographic region in support of Positive Plastics Education. These visits serve elementary, junior, and high school students and support community and school-wide STEM events.



Cramer Junior High School – Essexville, MI



PlastiVan educators Elizabeth Egan and Evan Morton with the John Glenn Bobcat

Tom - Wanted to pass along a very BIG thank you for sponsoring the PlastiVan visit to our classroom on Monday. The students were very excited and interested in the information, demonstrations, and hands-on activities that they participated in. The presenters were very engaging, and the students love to see professionals from the community/workforce and learn about their careers and passions.

Again, thank you for allowing our students to participate in this educational and fun program.

Mrs. Kelly Hugo & the 7th grade science students at Cramer Junior High School

Hello Tom,
Thanks once again for the support you give to the PlastiVan program. Elizabeth and Evan visited John Glenn on Friday, 1/28/22, and it was once again a great day. Students love the hands-on portions and learning from a new perspective. They especially enjoyed the youthfulness of Evan this year!

PlastiVan has been visiting John Glenn for many years and we have had several students attend Ferris State for the Plastic & Rubber Program. As juniors and seniors in high school, students are so unaware of the wide variety of career paths that are available and this certainly helps them to see how important plastics are to our lives, as well as career opportunities.

In preparing students for the PlastiVan visit this year I investigated the link that was sent with PlastiVideos, activities, articles, etc. There is definitely a wealth of information here! Thanks to the group that invested time and resources to put this all together.

We usually send off a card, but I see that "Thank You Notes" can be sent directly to you in this electronic world!

Thanks to all that are a part of this wonderful program!!

Sandra L. Schafer, JGHS Chemistry, Bay City





Students in AP Chemistry learn how to manipulate polymer chains

Students were asked the question: WHAT DID YOU LEARN TODAY?

I learned the structure of a polymer.

Ferris State University has a good plastics program.

How to recycle a water bottle correctly.

The presenters taught us a lot about plastics and jobs pertaining to them

There are many different types of plastics.

All plastics are polymers, but not all polymers are plastic.

Polymer means "multiple parts" and Monomer means "one part".

I learned about thermosets, polymers, and monomers.

I learned about synthetic materials and the difference between hydrophobic and hydrophilic.

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Julie Proctor, PlastiVan Program Coordinator
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TITLE	NAME	COMPANY	O/W PHONE	EMAIL
President	Neil Fuenmayor	LyondellBasell	517.898.7117	neil.fuenmayor@lyondellbasell.com
Past President	David Okonski	General Motors	248.521.9101	david.a.okonski@gm.com
President Elect	Fang Wang, PhD	Sun Chemical	313.701.1910	fang.wang@sunchemical.com
1st Vice-President	Rob Philp	Sirmax	248.716.0657	rphilp@sirmax.com
2nd Vice-President	VACANT			
Councilor	Dr. Sassan Tarahomi	Altera Holdings	989.335.0060	starahomi@comcast.net
Secretary	Bob Petrach	Safety Technology – Retired	248.703.5995	robertpetrach@aol.com
Treasurer	Tom Powers	Consultant	248.877.0689	tpowers47@live.com
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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.

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