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Chairman's Message:

Oleksandr G. Kravchenko, Ph.D.



Dear Composites Division Members,

As we move into the spring of 2025, I'm excited to share updates, celebrate milestones, and recognize the continued evolution of our vibrant SPE Composites Division community.

First, I would like to take a moment to recognize and thank three long-standing members of the Composites Division Board who recently completed their service: Dr. Michael Connolly, Dan Buckley, and Dr. Enamul Haque. Each of these individuals played a foundational role in shaping the Composites Division by collectively dedicating over 70 years of service to the board. They played key role in establishing the Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (ACCE), as they were part of the original organizing team when ACCE was launched in 2001, with the first conference happening shortly after 9/11. Dan Buckley, a founding member of the Division Board, held virtually every leadership role over the years and served as Chair during the first ACCE, a testament to his leadership. Michael Connolly, a past Chair of both the Automotive and Composites Divisions, was instrumental in the early growth of ACCE, chairing the event several times and leading numerous technical programs. Enamul Haque served as Technical Program Chair for both ANTEC and ACCE, as well as contributed tirelessly as a dedicated session reviewer and moderator. Enamul's commitment has left a lasting impact on the quality and integrity of our technical programming. We are deeply grateful for their dedication, leadership, and many years of service.

Looking ahead, the 25th Annual Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (ACCE) will be held in 2025, marking a major milestone for our division. This year's theme will spotlight composites in electric vehicles, circular economy solutions, and sustainable innovations. We are proud to announce Kristin von Szadkowski, Field of Action Lead for Sustainable Product Innovation at Volkswagen Group, as our first keynote speaker. Her talk, "Composites & Circular Vehicle Technologies at Volkswagen Group Innovation," will highlight the company's roadmap for sustainable composites, recycling strategies, and the role of CAE simulation technologies in efficient product development.

There is still time to get involved, technical presentation abstracts are due April 26, and poster abstracts are due July 31, 2025. Don't miss the chance to share your work and be part of this special anniversary event.

In this issue, we're also announcing the next round of Composites Division student and professional awards, including the Harold Giles Award and the Jackie Rehkopf Scholarship. These awards recognize outstanding contributions from both academic researchers and industry professionals who are advancing the field of polymer composites through innovation, impact, and service.

I invite all of you – students, early-career professionals, and experienced leaders alike – to stay engaged with the Division and participate in the exciting events and programs ahead.

Best regards,
Alex Kravchenko, PhD
Chair, SPE Composites Division


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Award Report

By: Pritesh Yeole, Ph.D.



As a part of the mandate of the Society of Plastics Engineers, the Composites Division recognizes excellence in development and proliferation of composites materials. Several awards have been organized to honor and recognize highly capable individuals, both on academic and industrial levels. Every year the Composites Division issues these awards-based on rigorous competitions through solicitation of nominees and applicants. The awards are a) Harold Giles Award, and b) Jackie Rehkopf Scholarship.

Harold Giles Scholarships

This award was created in honor of the late Harold Giles who was taken from this world too soon. Harold was one of the great Composite Division Awards Chairs that many of us worked with during his days at Azdel and at UNC. He would have been thrilled to know that we are honoring his name in awarding worthy students. This award is run through SPE International in their Foundation Program series. The Composites Division will select the winners from the pool of applicants in two categories, Graduate and Undergraduate students. This year, we received 45 applications (27 Graduate and 18 Undergraduate students). The award is dispensed through SPE International to the winners.

The scoring criterion is based on twenty points for the category of scholastic achievements, community service, and other honors, ten points based on the

strength of the recommendation letters, ten points for previous employment history particularly if this involved composite activity, five points for filling out the application form correctly, five points for providing transcript and for getting good grades, and a final five points for the reason they applied for the scholarship.

Award Requirements:

- Two awards presented to one undergraduate and one graduate student, who will maintain the academic status for at least two semesters after the award announcement.
- An essay documenting experience in the composites industry (courses taken, research conducted, or jobs held)
- Have not received the award in previous years.
- Winners are typically students who not only maintained a good grade point average but also served their community, had some experience in the composite area, and are backed by solid reference letters from former professors and employers.

The award can be up to \$3500 per student depending on funding availability.

Key Dates:

Issue call for nominations February 1st
Close call for nominations April 1st
Complete award adjudication June 30th
Notify recipients by July 30th
Present awards SPE ACCE

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Award Report continued...



Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Memorial Scholarships

This award is in honor of late Jackie Rehkopf who was a recognized engineer who published books and was actively involved in the composites industry. The Automotive and Composites Divisions co-sponsors these awards. The award is presented annually at the SPE ACCE conference each fall and is a premiere award for exemplary performance.

Award Requirements

- A single full time grad student or two undergrad students if no grad students qualify
- Preference will be given to female students, but the best candidates will be selected
- Focus should be on research activities targeted to ground transportation composite technology
- Students must be in good academic standing and pursuing a degree in Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics, or a related Engineering discipline
- A 2-page essay is required showing planned work and how it will benefit composites in an automotive or other ground transportation application
- A letter of recommendation from the student's advisor or mentor is also required
- Scholarship recipients are required to present work at an SPE technical conference and/or have it published in an SPE technical journal

The award can be up to \$5000 if one student is selected or up to \$2500 per student if two are selected, depending on funding availability.

Key Dates

Issue call for nominations January 1st
Close call for nominations April 1st
Complete award adjudication June 30th
Notify recipients by July 30th
Present awards SPE ACCE

An advertisement for Michelman Hydrosize composite fiber sizing. The background is a blurred image of a car's front end, showing the headlight and wheel. On the left, there is a dark vertical panel with white text. The text reads: "MICHELMAN Hydrosize®", "Fiber Sizings for Composites", "ENHANCING COMPOSITE PERFORMANCE THROUGH OPTIMIZED FIBER-POLYMER INTERFACE ADHESION", and "michelman.com".

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Contact: **Teri Chouinard CBC, APR**
Teri@IntuitGroup.com

See page 16 for more details



AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Novi, MI • September 3-5, 2025

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PRESENT YOUR TECHNOLOGIES that are advancing the industry at the 25th Anniversary ACCE 2025. Topics include: Composites in Electric Vehicles; Advances in Thermoplastic Composites; Advances in Thermoset Composites; Additive Manufacturing & 3D Printing; Enabling Technologies; Sustainable Composites; Bonding, Joining & Finishing; Carbon Composites & Reinforcements; AI (Artificial Intelligence), ML (Machine Learning) and Data-Driven Solutions; and Design, Modeling and Simulation of Composites. Those interested in presenting are encouraged to submit their abstracts online ASAP. Go to our ACCE website and submit via the paper portal: <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>. **ABSTRACTS** are due **April 26, 2025** and **FINAL PAPERS AND/OR PRESENTATIONS** are due **June 28, 2025**.

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offer companies the opportunity to support the event and promote their products and services to a very targeted and interested OEM audience. Contact Teri at intuitgroup@gmail.com or **248.701.8003** and see our website <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/> for more information.

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MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE IN COMPOSITE MATERIALS

John W. Gillespie

About Medal of Excellence in Composites Materials:

Since 1984, the Medal of Excellence in Composite Materials has been awarded to pioneers and innovators that have made significant contributions in the field of composite materials through leadership, scholarly endeavor, invention and/or economic enterprise over a sustained period of years. The medal celebrates excellence on visionary impact, novel theories, discovery of patented processes, and/or exceptional publications.

SPE Composites BOD John W. Gillespie, Jr. was announced as one of the winners in 2025.



A big congratulations from the SPE Composites Board Members.

John W. Gillespie Jr. joined the University of Delaware Center for Composite Materials (UD-CCM) in 1981, serving as Director from 1996 to 2023. Dr. Gillespie is now Donald C. Phillips Emeritus Professor in the departments of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering and Mechanical Engineering in the College of Engineering. Under his leadership, UD-CCM prospered and grew as an internationally recognized center of excellence in com-

posites. During this period, he served as the Principal Investigator on five prestigious Centers of Excellence with the Army Research Laboratory, Office of Naval Research, Federal Aviation Association and NASA. He has published more than 1,000 publications with his students and collaborators. He has advised over 100 graduate students and engaged 100's of research scientists, post-doctoral researchers and undergraduate students in his research. Dr. Gillespie has served as a member of the prestigious and influential National Research Council Board on Manufacturing and Engineering Design, and Chair of the National Materials Advisory Board Committee on High-Performance Structural Fibers for Advanced Polymer-Matrix Composites. Dr. Gillespie has been Editor of the Journal of Thermoplastic Composite Materials since 1993. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE) Composites Division.

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Medal of Excellence continued...



Dr. Gillespie's contributions have been recognized through a number of honors and awards. He was a co-recipient of the U.S. Army's Paul A. Siple Memorial Award and was the first academic recipient of the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) Jud Hall Composites Manufacturing Award. He received the American Society for Composites (ASC) Outstanding Research Award, American Society for Civil Engineers Charles

Pankow Award for Innovation, and the Wayne W. Stinchcomb Memorial Award from the American Society for Testing and Materials. His team received the CAMX Advanced Composites Excellence (ACE) award and the Delmonte Award for Innovation Excellence by the Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE). Dr. Gillespie is a Fellow of SME, ASC, SPE and SAMPE.

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25 YEARS OF ADVANCING MOBILITY

Call for Scholarship Applications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1-26-2025

SPE® ACCE 2025 – Automotive Composites Conference & Expo Announces Call For Applications For ACCE & Rehkopf Scholarships Due April 1, 2025

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. -

The organizing committee for the 25th Annual SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) invites graduate and undergraduate students to submit applications for three SPE ACCE scholarships and an additional award from the endowed scholarship funded in honor of the late Dr. Jackie Rehkopf, a long-time SPE ACCE volunteer and automotive composites expert.

Applications are due April 1, 2025 and winners will be announced prior to the 2025 SPE ACCE event, September 3 - 5, 2025 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan (in the Metro-Detroit area). The 2025 ACCE theme is “25 Years of Advancing Mobility with Composites Technologies”.

The three ACCE scholarships are \$2,000 USD each. Two of the scholarships, given annually since 2007, are for full-time graduate students who are pursuing degrees in Polymer Science, Compos-

ites, Plastics or a related Engineering discipline. A third ACCE scholarship is available for a graduate or junior/senior undergraduate student pursuing similar academic programs.

Three letters of recommendation are required, one of which must be from the advisor or mentor of the proposed work to be pursued by the applicant. Students must also submit a succinct two-page essay explaining how their planned work will benefit polymer composites usage in an automotive or other ground-transportation application. Scholarship recipients will be required to present their research project at the 2026 ACCE conference.

The Dr. Jackie Rehkopf endowed scholarship of \$5,000 USD, is for full-time graduate students, with preference given to female students. If no graduate students qualify, then two, \$2,500 USD scholarships may be awarded to undergraduate students with junior or senior standing.

Project focus should be on research activities targeted at ground transportation composite technology. Students must be in good academic standing and pursuing a degree in Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics or a related engineering discipline. A two-page essay is required showing

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Call for Scholarship Applications *continued...*



planned work and how it will benefit composites in the automotive or other ground transportation application. One letter of recommendation must come from the student's advisor or mentor. Scholarship recipients are required to present their research project at an upcoming SPE technical conference and/or have it published in an SPE technical journal.

Scholarship award recipients will receive partial travel stipends, hotel accommodations and free conference registrations to assist with travel expenses. Applications for ACCE, Rehkopf, and other SPE scholarships, are on the SPE Foundation website: 4spe.org/scholarships.

Deadline for submission is April 1, 2025.

For more information on the ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships, contact: Dr. David Jack, Baylor University, 254.710.3347, David_Jack@baylor.edu.

About the SPE ACCE: Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 400 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion, education and networking about advances in transportation composites. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia/Pacific as well as North America. About 20% of attendees work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus or aviation OEMs and another 25% represent tier suppliers. Attendees also work for composite materials processing equipment, additives, or reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultancies, university and government labs; media; and investment banks. The show has been produced by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001.

The mission of SPE is: To promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments in the global transportation industry. SPE's Composites Division does the same with a focus on plastic-based composites in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more information see

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Call for Scholarship Applications continued...

<https://speautomotive.com/> and <https://composites.4spe.org/>. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers, see www.4spe.org.

For More info on the SPE ACCE, see <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>.

How to Apply for SPE ACCE & Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships

Applicants must complete an online application and submit it to The SPE Foundation by April 1, 2025. The application link can be found at www.4spe.org/scholarships. All completed applications must include:

1. A completed student profile and application.
2. Three recommendation letters: two from teachers or school officials and one from an employer or someone who knows you well. Scholarship applications require that one recommendation letter must be from the Faculty Advisor associated with the Senior, MS, or PhD project.

3. A high school and / or college transcript for the past two years.
4. A completed resume that includes employment history, school activities, community activities, honors and special recognitions. Be especially mindful of activities, research or jobs related to plastics or polymers.
5. All applicants are eligible for Foundation General Scholarships and must submit a two-page essay that explains why you are applying for a scholarship, your qualifications, and how your study of plastics will contribute to your immediate and/or long-range career goals in the plastics industry.
6. Student membership in SPE is free and you must be a member to apply for a scholarship. If you are not a member, you can join at 4spe.org/join.

Complete details on Foundation General Scholarships are available from The SPE Foundation and online at 4spe.org/scholarships. Call +1 203.740.5427 or email foundation@4spe.org.

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Contact Teri Chouinard CBC, APR for more info intuitgroup@gmail.com
See page 16 for more details



AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

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Call for Nominations for Innovative Parts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 17 FEBRUARY 2025

SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (Acce) Announces Call For Nominations For Innovative Parts Competition At 2025 Event

Prototype And Production Parts Are Eligible

TROY (DETROIT) MICH.-

The organizing committee for the SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (ACCE) today issued a call for nominations for its annual innovative parts competition at the 2025 conference, September 3-5 in Novi, Michigan.

Any registered conference participant (speaker, sponsor/exhibitor, or attendee) may nominate original equipment or aftermarket composite parts on automotive, heavy truck, or other transportation applications from anywhere in the world. Prototype parts are also eligible. Companies, organizations and universities are encouraged to participate and be recognized for their innovative production parts or prototypes. The vehicle producer must give permission and the part must be brought to the SPE ACCE for a formal review by judges.

A total of five prizes will be awarded including four for the most innovative Production Part and Prototype Part in Materials Innovation and Process Innovation categories (selected by judges who are industry experts and members of the SPE ACCE planning committee) and one People's Choice award winner will be selected by conference attendees. Winning teams will receive recognition and a trophy at the event.

Nomination abstracts are due June 30, 2025 and final nominations are due July 30, 2025. See Nomination instructions: <https://speautomotive.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-SPE-ACCE-PartsCompetition.pdf>

For more info contact Part Competition Chair - Dr. Leonardo Simon: LSimon@uwaterloo.ca.

For more info on ACCE go to: <http://speautomotive.com/acce-conference>.

About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE typically draws over 500 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion, education and dis-

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Innovative Parts continued...

plays about advances in transportation composites. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia/Pacific as well as North America. About 20% of attendees work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus or aviation OEMs and another 25% represent tier suppliers.

Attendees also work for composite materials processing equipment; resin, additives, carbon fiber, glass or other reinforcement suppliers; trade associations; consultancies; university and government labs; media; and investment banks. The show has been jointly produced by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments in the global transportation industry.

SPE's Composites Division does the same with a focus on plastic-based composites in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more info see <https://speautomotive.com/> and <https://composites.4spe.org/>

For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers, see www.4spe.org.

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Call for student poster

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 20 FEBRUARY 2025

SPE® ACCE 2025 – Automotive Composites Conference & Expo Announces Call For Abstracts For SPE® ACCE Student Poster Competition Sponsored By Dassault Systèmes • Abstracts Due July 31, 2025

TROY (DETROIT), MICH.

The organizing committee for the SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) invites graduate, undergraduate, community college, and high school students to submit abstracts on innovative composites technologies, for automotive and ground transportation, for its annual student poster competition.

The competition will be held during the 25th Annual ACCE at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan Sept. 3 - 5, 2025. Judges including industry experts, SPE board members, and members of the media will review all posters with student authors during the conference. Students entering the poster competition will also give a 5-minute mini-talk podium presentation on their poster topic in a special technical session.

First, second, and third place awards will be presented to winners in graduate, undergraduate and high school categories during a special ceremony at the 25th Annual ACCE. The 2025 conference theme is “25 Years of Advancing Mobility with Composites Technologies”.

Poster titles and abstracts are due by July 31, 2025. Digital copies of posters are due by August 20, 2025 for pre-review by judges. Abstracts and Digital Copies of the posters need to be submitted online via the ACCE Speaker Portal.

The ACCE Speaker Portal is also accessible via the: SUBMIT 2025 PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS HERE button on <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>.

Questions should be sent to
Douglas_E_Smith@baylor.edu.

Students will need to bring 24" x 36" printed copies of their posters to the conference. Large multi poster panels and push pins for displaying the posters in the Student Poster Display area will be provided. All students presenting a poster in the competition will receive free registration to the conference, and a shared hotel room provided by SPE

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Call for Student Posters continued...



ACCE. Students who submit abstracts and posters early, will be provided with accommodations at the Hyatt Place hotel onsite at ACCE. The ACCE provides students with excellent networking opportunities especially ideal for those close to graduating who are starting to look for a job. The poster template is on the SPE ACCE website "2025 ACCE POSTER COMPETITION TEMPLATE" <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>.

Poster topics may include, but are not limited to, subjects such as:

- Automotive Composites
- Composites and lightweight materials for trucks
- Bio-composites
- Nanocomposites
- Glass, carbon, and hybrid fibers

- Thermoset and thermoplastic technologies
- Recycling and green technologies
- Multi-materials
- Joining technologies
- Applications of Composites in Electric Vehicles
- Modeling and analysis of lightweight materials
- CAFE standards and mandates
- Cost-effective manufacturing
- Use of advanced materials in innovative applications
- Virtual prototyping and design
- Microstructure, failure and fracture
- Failure envelopes and theories
- Additive manufacturing of composites
- Air Mobility

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- Reach many more as a sponsorship also includes your logo on our website, www.composites.4speorg with a link to your company
- Maximize your exposure to the customers & the trade
- Stay informed on the latest composites activity

Increase your presence on the web leading to more sales by sponsoring our Electronic Newsletter which is published on the SPE Composites Division Website and emailed to all Division Members (1,000 approx.) 3 times annually. Rates include 3 issues (not on calendar basis - published approx. Nov/Dec, Mar/April, July/August). All ads include a link to your website increasing your exposure on the worldwide web exponentially. Sponsorship also includes your logo ad with a link to your website on www.composites.4speorg further increasing your presence on the Web as a Leader in Composites Technology.

Call for Student Posters continued...



Students and their posters are ranked using the following criteria:

- Content (student and poster demonstrate clarity of topic, objectives, and background);
- Motivation for research and technical relevance to conference theme;
- Methodology and approach to problem;
- Quality of proposed research results/findings;

- Conclusions are supported by information presented;
- Presentation (display aesthetics are pleasing and there is a logical flow between sections);
- Knowledgeable (presenter has a good grasp of the subject);
- Understandability (poster is effective even without student being present to explain it); and
- Overall rank vs. other posters and presenters.

The 2024 ACCE Student Poster Competition first place winners included Hridyesh Tewani, University of Wisconsin - Madison, for his poster "Hybrid Carbon/Metal Composites for Lightning Strike Protection in Advanced Air Mobility" in the Graduate Category; and Philip McMorran, University of Guelph, for his poster "AI-Driven Sustainable Fused Deposition Modeling of Sustainable Composite For Automotive Applications: A Bayesian Optimization Approach" in the Undergraduate Category.

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE currently draws 500 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion, education and networking about advances in transportation composites. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia/Pacific and South America, as well as North

continued on page 18...

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Call for Student Posters continued...



America. About 20% of attendees work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus or aviation OEMs and another 25% represent tier suppliers. Attendees also work for composite materials processing equipment, additives, or reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultancies, university and government labs; media; and investment banks. The show has been jointly produced by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001. <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>

The mission of SPE: To promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these

advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments in the global transportation industry. SPE's composites Division does the same with a focus on plastic-based composites in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more info see <https://speautomotive.com/>, <https://composites.4spe.org/> and <https://4spe.org/>.

For more information on the ACCE Student Poster Competition, contact: • Dr. Douglas E. Smith, Baylor University, 254.710.6830, Douglass_E_Smith@baylor.edu

High Resolution Photos from the ACCE are available via: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/speautomotive/albums/>

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AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Novi, MI • September 3-5, 2025

Presented by SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions

WORLD'S LEADING AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES FORUM

25 YEARS OF ADVANCING MOBILITY

25th
★ ANNIVERSARY ★



Info About ACCE's Online Portal

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 1 FEBRUARY 2025

SPE® ACCE (Automotive Composites Conference & Expo) Announces Online Paper Portal For Submitting Abstracts For 2025 25th Anniversary Event: "25 Years Of Advancing Mobility With Composites Technologies"

Troy, (DETROIT) MICH.

The SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) team is announcing its Online Paper Portal for submitting abstracts for the 25th annual event Sept. 3 - 5, 2025 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan. "25 Years of Advancing Mobility with Composites Technologies" is the theme for the 2025 anniversary event. Those interested in presenting are encouraged to submit abstracts online ASAP as a limited number of presentation slots are available: [LINK TO ACCE PAPER PORTAL](#)

This year's ACCE will feature two paths for contributions to the technical program: 1) Peer Reviewed Technical Papers with a Technical Presentation at the Event and 2) Technical Presentation at the Event only. Those who submit both a Technical Paper and a Technical Presentation on time will be eligible for a "Best Paper Award" that will be presented at the conference. Abstracts are due April 25, 2025,

and Technical Paper and/or Presentation Content is due June 27, 2025. A template for Technical Papers can be downloaded from the SPE ACCE website online via <http://speautomotive.com/acce-forms>.

For more info regarding the technical program, please contact Teri Chouinard at intuitgroup@gmail.com. Additional Info on Presenting/Sponsoring/Exhibiting and more is available via <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>.

About ACCE: The ACCE features technical sessions, 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 breakfasts, lunches, and receptions enhance the value of the event that currently attracts over 400 attendees from across the globe. Since 2001, the Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) have jointly produced the ACCE to educate the industry about the benefits of composites in transportation applications.

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About ACCE's Online Portal continued...



ACCE Sponsors are Leaders in the Automotive and Composites Industry. Their support enables the production of a first-class event with complimentary passes for Automotive and other Transportation OEMs to attend and learn about how composite technologies benefit their vehicles. Early Bird Sponsors to date for ACCE 2025 include: Premier Plus Sponsor - Molding Products; Premier Sponsors - AOC, BASF, Bostik, INEOS Composites, IDS Composites International; Associate Sponsors - Baylor University MTACC, Composites One, Dieffenbacher, Fraunhofer Project Centre at Western University, Rassini; Lunch Sponsor - Mitsubishi Chemical Group and Advertising Sponsor - DSC Consumables.

A Variety of Sponsorship and Exhibit Options offer companies and organizations 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 and showcasing their products and services should contact Teri Chouinard at intuit-group@gmail.com and go to www.speautomotive.com/acce-conference for more information.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances.

SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments in the global transportation industry. The SPE Composites Division is dedicated to the growth of composites in multiple industries. Topic areas for both divisions include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information see <http://speautomotive.com> and <https://composites.4spe.org>. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers, see www.4spe.org. SPE® is a registered trademark of the Society of Plastics Engineers.

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THERMOSET TOPCON

Madison, Wisconsin • May 13-14, 2025

Presented by SPE Thermoset Division

WORLD'S LEADING THERMOSET TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE & EXPO



AT THE MONONA TERRACE COMMUNITY AND CONVENTION CENTER

Thermosets: Setting New Standards

For Immediate Release: 14 NOVEMBER 2024
Media Contact: Teri Chouinard, SPE Thermoset Top-Con Event Manager, 248.701.8003,
intuitgroup@gmail.com

SPE® Thermoset Div. Announces Call For Papers, Sponsors & Exhibitors For Thermoset Topcon May 13-14, 2025, In Madison, Wisconsin

Abstracts Due February 15, 2025 &
Final Presentations Due April 15, 2025

The SPE Thermoset Div. is announcing its call for papers, exhibitors, and sponsors for their annual event to be held on May 13 – May 14, 2025, at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

“THERMOSETS: SETTING NEW STANDARDS” is the theme for the 2025 event. “This year’s theme highlights how thermoset material and manufacturing technologies are ‘Setting New Standards’ as the best solution for innovating new products, and improving performance, mechanical properties, and costs in a number of applications and markets,” said Sean Campbell, sales and marketing manager, Engineered

Composites at LyondellBasell and SPE Thermoset Div. Chair. “Thermoset plastics are known as the standard for high-heat applications such as electronics and appliances and where high strength-to-weight ratio, chemical inertness, dimensional stability and structure are important including aerospace, construction, transportation and more,” added Campbell. “Today, thermosets are expanding increasingly into electrical vehicles, urban air mobility, mass transit, oil and gas, medical devices, civil engineering infrastructure and more,” continued Campbell.

The SPE Thermoset TopCon 2024 event was a huge success with 170 attendees (largest attendance in recent years), 27 sponsors, two keynote presentations, 21 technical talks and great networking during two breakfasts, two lunches and a fun cocktail reception with a band overlooking the beautiful Lake Monona. Students presented their research and development in thermoset technology via student posters and were awarded cash prizes. A \$7,500 donation was made to the SPE Foundation to support STEM student programs.

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Thermosets: Setting New Standards

The SPE Thermoset TopCon 2025 will follow the 2024 format featuring keynotes, technical presentations and exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for thermoset technologies in multiple applications. The 2-day conference also includes networking breakfasts, lunches, and a cocktail reception. Optional social events, including a tour of the Polymer Engineering Center at UW – Madison, golf outing at University Ridge Golf Course and a cruise of the Madison shoreline are offered on May 12, the day before the conference begins.

Paper abstracts are due February 15, 2025, and final presentations are due April 15, 2025. Limited time slots are available. A variety of exhibit and non-exhibit sponsorship packages including passes to the event and opportunities for company exposure are available. Companies interested in presenting papers and/or showcasing their products and/or services via sponsorship or exhibiting, and individuals interested in registering to attend the event should go to <https://spethermosets.org/topcon/> for more information or contact Teri Chouinard at intuitgroup@gmail.com.

Conference Venue: Inspired by Wisconsin native Frank Lloyd Wright's design, at the peak of his creative powers in 1938, the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center is one of the country's premier conference and convention facilities. On the shores of Lake Monona, it is an architecturally striking structure that connects the state capital, the cityscape, and the community. The conference exhibits, meals and cocktail reception will be in the Community Terrace with pristine views of Lake Monona offering a relaxing and enjoyable experience. The presentations will be in the Lecture Hall offering comfortable theatre style seating, staging and professional

audio-visual support. Special rates are provided for conference attendees at the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace which is connected via skywalk to the conference venue. See <https://www.mononaterrace.com> and <https://www3.hilton.com/> for more info.

SPE Thermoset TopCon 2024 Sponsors included: Plenco (Plastics Engineering Company); Mar-Bal, Inc.; IDI Composites International; LYB LyondellBasell; American Colors Inc.; Century Tooling; Core Molding Technologies; Cimbar Performance Minerals; Composites One; Glenwood Tool & Mold, Inc; G & W Electric; ICT Molding Solutions; INEOS Composites; McClarin Composites; Molding Products; sensXPRT Technology by NETZSCH; Neptune Nano Technologies; OMYA; Owens Corning; Penn Compression Moulding, Inc.; Premix Hadlock; Zehrco-Giancola Composites; Schmidt & Heinzmann; Vibrantz Technologies; CompositesWorld; Plastics News; and Urethanes Technology International.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics and composites worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about the technological advances. SPE's Thermoset Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in thermoset technology in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information see <https://spethermosets.org/topcon/>. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers, see <https://www.4spe.org/>.

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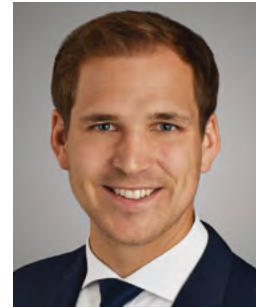
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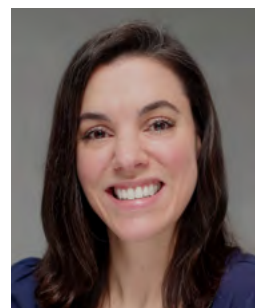
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See page 16 for more details