

Lifetime



Achievement

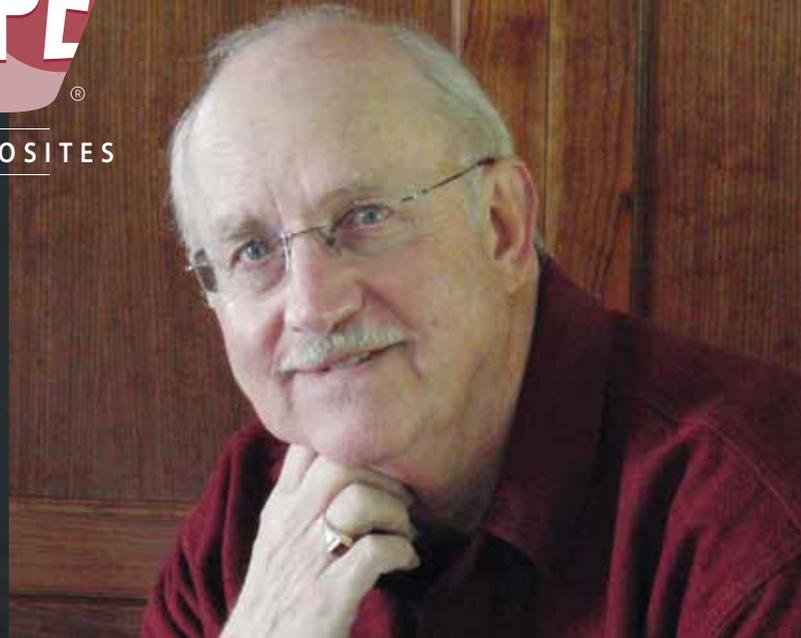
American GFM's Dan Buckley Wins 2015 SPE® Composites Division's Lifetime Achievement Award

Dan Buckley has won the SPE Composites Division's **Lifetime Achievement Award** for service to the division, to SPE, and to the larger global composites industry. Buckley, who was a founder of the SPE Composites Division and a co-founder of the SPE ACCE show, has enjoyed a career spanning five decades that includes nearly 20 issued patents, over 100 presentations at industry gatherings, and four book contributions. He is retiring from the SPE Composites Division board as well as his current employer, American GFM Corp. in 2016.

Upon graduating from University of Massachusetts-Amherst with a degree in Chemistry, Buckley began his long career in plastics by working in the quality-control laboratory of phenolic molding-compound manufacturer, Duraphene Industries Inc. in Sterling, Conn. After less than a year, the company closed and Buckley moved on to Reichold Chemical's Chicago office where he became a sales engineer supporting phenolic molding compounds, eventually adding the composites side of the business. Next he joined GLS Fiberglass for three years as manager of the company's Milwaukee, Wis. branch, and then Buckley joined C.A. Lawton Co. as sale manager in the company's Green Bay, Wis. office for four years. In 1979, Buckley left Lawton to form his own company, Vermont Industrial Plastics and moved his family back to New England to be closer to ailing parents. The company grew and was sold in 1986, at which point Buckley returned to C.A. Lawton as director of Product Development and R&D, bringing his career full circle and returning to research. During this period, he licensed some of his patents to American GFM (AGFM) and, as part of the deal, for the next 15 years split his time between both companies. In 2005 he left Lawton and joined AGFM full time as R&D manager.

Since 1986, Buckley has filed and been awarded numerous patents related to composites. His patent portfolio over the years has included composition of matter patents for binders and thermoset polymers (including epoxies, polyurethanes, unsaturated polyesters, vinyl esters, and phenolics), and process patents involving curing energies and 3D wave guide/imaging management. He also holds a design patent for a medical device.

Buckley, who is an *Emeritus* and Honored Service member of SPE joined the society when he worked for Reichold. During his first stint with C.A. Lawton, Buckley became a member of the board of directors of the SPE Thermoset Division. During his tenure on that board, he served as treasurer, ANTEC® vice chair, ANTEC chair (twice), chair-elect



and division chair, as well as division councilor for a total of nine years. It was during his time on the SPE Thermoset Division that Buckley started a committee that eventually became the SPE Composites Division. He joined the board of the newly formed Composites Division and was the division's first councilor for six years. He also served as chair-elect and division chair. He helped guide the new division through startup and financial challenges, as well as worked with other engineering societies on several composites-related technical conferences. In the fall of 2000 it became obvious that a partner organization was uninterested in supporting the conference further, so Buckley approached Fred Deans from the SPE Automotive Division board and suggested that both boards work together to form a new event, which was held the following year in 2001 and became known as the SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition, which is now in its fifteenth successive year. Two other innovations introduced by Buckley that have since been implemented by numerous SPE groups are the electronic newsletter and the news brief concept. Both were the result of budget limitations by the Composites Division, which still needed to communicate with its members. Buckley also was the division's first recipient of its annual Composites Person of the Year award.

According to Dale Grove, SPE Composites Division Awards chair, "Dan Buckley is the SPE Composites Division's longest acting member and has been a driving force for our organization from the very start. For his lifetime of work serving our division, SPE, and this industry, we really wanted to honor him with this Lifetime Achievement award. He's earned it."

In retirement, Buckley plans to continue restoring and showing vintage cars (he currently owns four of them), alpine skiing (he recently retired after 31 years as a ski instructor at Killington Ski Resort), touring the country in his recreational vehicle (RV), and enjoying his three children and three grandchildren (all of whom live nearby). Ever curious, he also plans to stay peripherally involved in a few side projects with friends in the nanocomposites and medical-device fields.