



SPE[®] ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF GRADUATE-LEVEL ACCE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RESEARCH IN AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES

The first 2 scholarships for graduate-level research in composites for ground-transportation applications have been awarded by the planning committee of the **SPE[®] Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition (ACCE)**. Students will each receive a check for \$2,000 USD and will report on the results of their research during the 8th-annual **SPE ACCE Show**, September 15-17, 2008. The winning students were selected from a pool of qualified applicants by committee members and representatives from General Motors, Ford Motor Company, and Chrysler LLC. This year's scholarships are being given in honor of journalist, Steve Loud.

Mr. Roston Elwell from Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas) was one of the scholarship recipients. His winning project involves the use of active core composite sandwich panels whose mechanical properties are tunable and whose geometry is changeable. He will investigate the use of such panels in collision energy absorption systems to improve passenger safety.

Mr. Alejandro Londono-Hurtado from University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, Wisc.) and a native of Columbia submitted the other winning project. His work involves application of computer simulation and numerical modeling to predict variations in fiber orientation and density distribution during molding of fiber-reinforced automotive parts. He says fiber-matrix separation is among the least understood and least studied processing effect for sheet-molding compound (SMC) and glass-mat thermoplastic (GMT) composites.

Held annually in the suburbs of Detroit, the ACCE has become the world's leading forum for automotive composites. The event's success is attributed to the fact that it provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America and who represent transportation OEMs and tier suppliers; composite materials, processing equipment, additives, and reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultants, university and government labs, media, and investment bankers. This year's conference will be held September 11-13, 2007 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Mich.

For more information about the **SPE ACCE**, visit the Composites' Division website at www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php, or the Automotive Division's website at www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm, or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.

For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at www.4spe.org, or call +1.203.775.0471.

#