



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (04/19/07)
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SPE® TO AWARD SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES RESEARCH IN HONOR OF JOURNALIST STEVE LOUD

Two Scholarships for Graduate Research in Composites to be Awarded, Applications Due June 2007 for Awards to be Announced August 2007

TROY (DETROIT), Mich. – For the first time in its 7-year history, organizers of the **SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (ACCE)** will bestow two scholarships of \$2,000 USD each for graduate work in polymer composites that has impact on ground transportation. This year, the scholarships will be given in honor of long-time composites industry leader, supporter, and journalist, Steve Loud, formerly of Solana Beach, Ca.

A *Call for Scholarship Applications* has been announced, with forms available for download at www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm. Applications should be submitted electronically to ACCEpapers@gmail.com by June 30th for awards to be announced in early August. A share of the proceeds from last year's **SPE ACCE** are funding this year's scholarships.

Steve Loud, whom this year's scholarships honor, spent his entire career working in various aspects of the composites industry. His wife Susan Loud said, "I think Steve could have easily worn the title of 'Mr. Composite.' He was such a believer in the composites industry and did his best to support it and move it forward during his 43-year career."

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Born in Detroit, Loud grew up in nearby Birmingham, Mich. in a family that worked for the auto industry. He received a degree in Business from the University of Michigan in 1963 and began his career at Owens Corning in sales and marketing, where he stayed for the next 18 years. In 1981, Steve moved his family to California to become vice-president of Teledyne Ryan before starting his own company, Composites Worldwide. With his wife, Susan, he published award-winning print and online newsletters on high-performance composite materials and processes, and maintained the Composites News supersite on the Web. Steve died July 21, 2006.

Throughout his career, Loud was a member and supporter of a number of professional organizations and conferences. He was a SAMPE¹ member for over 25 years and was named a Fellow in 2002. He was also a member of SPE, ACI², ASCE³, ASM International⁴, COBRAE⁵, EPTA⁶, SAE⁷, SAMPE-Europe, SAMPE-Japan, SME⁸, TISP⁹, and TRB¹⁰. He was active in the SME / CMA¹¹, Composites Europe (EuCIA¹²), and JEC Composites shows, and JISSE¹³. Both Steve and Susan were media sponsors and supporters of the **SPE ACCE** and **Automotive Innovation Awards Gala**, which for them “felt like coming home,” said Susan Loud.

Jointly organized by the Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers, International, the ACCE has become the world’s leading forum for automotive composites, annually drawing attendees, sponsors, and speakers from four continents. 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 show will be held September 11-13, 2007 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Mich.

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¹ Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering (SAMPE)

² American Concrete Institute (ACI)

³ American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)

⁴ American Society for Materials (ASM)

⁵ Composite Bridge Alliance Europe (COBRAE)

⁶ European Pultrusion Technology Association (EPTA)

⁷ Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE)

⁸ Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME)

⁹ The Infrastructure Security Partnership (TISP)

¹⁰ Transportation Research Board (TRB)

¹¹ Composites Manufacturing Association (CMA) of SME

¹² European Composites Industry Association (EuCIA)

¹³ Japan International SAMPE Symposium & Exhibition

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The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. SPE's Automotive and Composites Divisions work to advance plastics and plastic-based composites technologies worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. Both divisions are dedicated to educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic based-composite developments, including applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

For more information about the SPE Automotive Composites Conference, 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.

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