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## **SPE<sup>®</sup> ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF GRADUATE-LEVEL SCHOLARSHIPS & BEST PAPER AWARDS FOR ACCE'07**

***Student Winners to Present Work at ACCE '08, Best Paper Winners to be Honored  
During Opening Ceremonies at ACCE '07***

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – The planning committee for the SPE<sup>®</sup> **Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition** (ACCE) announced two sets of winners today – student recipients of the *Steve Loud Scholarships* for graduate research in composites, and writing teams who have won *Best Paper Awards* in three categories from papers submitted for this year's conference. Each ACCE award is being given for the first time this year.

After a challenging review process, the first two scholarships for graduate-level research in composites for ground-transportation applications have been awarded to students at University of Wisconsin and Texas A&M University. Students will each receive a check for \$2,000 USD and will report on the results of their research during the 8<sup>th</sup>-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.

The project selected by Mr. Roston Elwell from Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas) 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.

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*SPE Announces Scholarship, Best Paper Award Winners*  
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Mr. Alejandro Londono-Hurtado from University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, Wisc.) and a native of Columbia is working on the 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.

*Best Paper Awards* are being given for the first time this year to recognize excellence in technical writing at the SPE ACCE. Winning entries were selected from among all written papers (not presentations) submitted for peer review for this year's conference. Winning authors will be honored for their achievement at a special ceremony during opening remarks at the show.

In the category of **Processing / Enabling Technologies**, the winning paper is titled **Development of a Tool to Measure Bond-Line Read-Through** and was authored by the team of Kedzie Fernholz (presenter) and Kim Lazarz, Ford Motor Company; C.S. Wang, General Motors Corporation; Bob Emerson and Dave Biernat, Chrysler LLC; Reda Hsakou, Visual Technologies; and Darryl Case, EOS Technologies.

In the category of **Composite Applications**, the paper judged best by reviewers is titled **Pedestrian Safety Validation of a High-Performance Thermoplastic Composite Hood** by the writing team of Derek Buckmaster, GE Plastics and Tae-Won Hwang, Hyundai Kia Motors.

In the category of **New Materials**, the winning paper is titled **Effect of Additives on the Structure and Properties of Wheat Straw-Polypropylene Composites** and was authored by the team of Paula Kruger and Leonardo Simon from the University of Waterloo's Department of Chemistry (Waterloo, Ont.).

Show organizers are predicting a record turnout at this year's event, which has broken records already for most technical presentations scheduled. Those interested in attending are encouraged to preregister using the form at [www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm](http://www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm).

This year's conference will be held September 11-13, 2007 at the MSU Management Education Center in Troy, Mich., a suburb of Detroit.

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.

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*SPE Announces Scholarship, Best Paper Award Winners*  
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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](http://www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php), or the Automotive Division's website at [www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm](http://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.

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