



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (5 August 2015)**  
**SPE-ACCE-05-15**

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***BEST PAPER AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 2015 SPE®  
AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION***

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the **SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) today announced the **Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Best Paper Award** winners for the group's fifteenth-annual show, **September 9-11, 2015**. Three authors who received the highest average ratings by conference peer reviewers out of a field of 70 contenders will be honored for excellence in technical writing with a commemorative plaque during SPE ACCE opening ceremonies on September 9. **Dr. Christopher Pastore**, *professor of Transdisciplinary Studies* in the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce at **Philadelphia University** (<http://www.philau.edu/>; Philadelphia) took first place in this year's competition; **Amy Langhorst**, *research engineer* in the Plastics Research group of Materials Research & Advanced Engineering at **Ford Motor Co.** (<http://www.ford.com/>; Dearborn, Mich., U.S.A.) took second place, and **Dr. Jacob Anderson**, *senior research & development engineer* at the PPG Fiber Glass Science and Technology Center (<http://www.ppgfiberglass.com/Home.aspx>; Shelby, N.C., U.S.A.) placed third in the competition. The conference's best paper awards honor long-time SPE ACCE committee member, session organizer, two-times technical program co-chair, and long-time automotive-composites industry researcher, Dr. Jackie Rehkopf.

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2015 SPE ACCE Best Paper Award Winners Announced  
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Pastore was sole author on a paper entitled *Lightweighting Composites through Selective Fiber Placement*, which will be presented on September 10 from 2:30-3:00 p.m. in the *Advances in Reinforcements* session at the conference. About his topic, the author says, "The underlying idea is to use more expensive carbon fiber reinforcement only where needed through the use of a gradient hybrid material that incorporates glass everywhere else. The goal is a process that allows automation while optimizing weight and cost for a given structural element. Through a combination of theoretical and experimental evaluations, a methodology for evaluating the weight/cost efficiency of chopped fiber composites has been developed and confirmed experimentally."

Langhorst was lead author along with Dr. Alper Kiziltas, Dr. Deborah Mielewski, and Dr. Ellen Lee, all of Ford Motor Co., on a paper entitled *Selective Dispersion and Comptabililizing Effect of Cellulose Filler in Recycled PA 6/PP Blends*, which will be presented on September 10 from 2:00-2:30 p.m. in the *Sustainable Composites* session. About her topic, Langhorst notes that "The environmental impact of automobiles can be reduced by using combinations of recycled polymers and natural fiber reinforcements to replace traditionally unfilled, glass-filled, and talc-filled polymeric components. Composites containing recycled polypropylene, recycled polyamide 6 (PA 6, also called nylon 6), and cellulose were produced using a twin-screw extruder and injection molding. The resulting properties were investigated on a microscopic (scanning-electron microscope) and macroscopic (mechanical and thermal properties) scale and will be discussed during the session."

Anderson was lead author along with Dr. Ryan P. Emerson on a paper entitled *Effect of Processing Technique on the Mechanical Performance of Glass Fiber Reinforced Thermoplastics*, which will be presented on September 10 from 11:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the *Advances in Thermoplastic Composites* session. Describing his topic, Anderson explained "In the present work, thermoplastic bulk molding compound (BMC) was investigated to determine its mechanical performance relative to granulated long-fiber thermoplastic (GLFT) and continuous fiber-reinforced thermoplastic tape (CFRT). This was achieved by using injection and compression molding to fabricate thermoplastic composite parts from GLFT, CFRT, and BMC. Versus the GLFT specimen, the BMC material was shown to exhibit improvements in flexural and impact performance of 100% and 20%, respectively, results of which will be described during the presentation."

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2015 SPE ACCE Best Paper Award Winners Announced  
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**About the SPE ACCE**

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## 2015 SPE ACCE Best Paper Award Winners Announced 4-4-4-4

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 900 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion 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 and Central America. Fully one-third of attendees indicate they work for automotive and light truck, off-highway, agriculture equipment, 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, consultants, university and government labs; media; and investment bankers. The show has been jointly sponsored by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001. For more information, see <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm> or <http://specomposites.com>.

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 materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design and testing, and application development. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org).

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**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – Dr. Christopher "Chris" Pastore, *professor of Transdisciplinary Studies* in the Kanbar College of Design, Engineering and Commerce at **Philadelphia University** (<http://www.philau.edu/>; Philadelphia) has been named a winner of the **Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Best Paper Award** by the peer-review committee for the **SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (ACCE)**. He authored a paper entitled *Lightweighting Composites through Selective Fiber Placement*, which he will present in the *Advances in Reinforcements* session on September 10 from 2:30-3:00 p.m. Pastore holds both a Ph.D. in Materials Engineering and an M.S. degree in Mathematics from Drexel University as well as a B.A. degree in Mathematics from LaSalle University. His book *Sustainable Composites* was published earlier this year, adding to a list of many publications in the field of composites, sustainability, and textiles.

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**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** – **Amy Langhorst**, *research engineer* in the Plastics Research group of Materials Research & Advanced Engineering at **Ford Motor Co.** (<http://www.ford.com/>; Dearborn, Mich., U.S.A.) has been named a winner of the **Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Best Paper Award** by the peer-review committee for the **SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (ACCE)**. Langhorst was lead author along with Dr. Alper Kiziltas, Dr. Deborah Mielewski, and Dr. Ellen Lee, all of Ford Motor Co., on a paper entitled *Selective Dispersion and Comptabilizing Effect of Cellulose Filler in Recycled PA 6/PP Blends*, which will be presented on September 10 from 2:00-2:30 p.m. in the *Sustainable Composites* session. Before joining the Plastics Research group, Langhorst previously worked with Ford’s Fuel Cell group on the development of novel materials for enhanced hydrogen storage. She also worked on the launch of the 2015 *Ford Edge* crossover utility vehicle (CUV) at the Oakville Assembly Plant in Ontario, Canada. She graduated from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor with a Bachelor’s degree in Materials Science and Engineering in 2013.

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