

# Automotive Plastics News

Today, Tomorrow - Together

April 2003 Volume 32, Issue 3



## ANTEC 2003

ANTEC 2003, the Annual Technical Conference for the Plastics Industry, will be held May 4-8, 2003 at the Nashville Convention Center & Renaissance Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee. The Automotive Division is planning two sessions during ANTEC. Dr. Norm Kakarala of Delphi Corporation will be the 2003 ANTEC Automotive Division Chairman, with support from Thomas Pickett (General Motors), Jay Raison (Delphi Corporation), Suresh Shah (Delphi Corporation), and Mike Shoemaker (Dow Automotive) to review and select papers.

The two Automotive Sessions will be scheduled for Tuesday May 6 in the morning and in the afternoon. Total of 12 technical papers will be presented on materials, process developments, and automotive applications. For a complete list of the papers in the Automotive Sessions, see pages 8 and 9 of this newsletter.

Unlike previous ANTECs, the 2003 ANTEC will have the plannery talks in the middle of the day from 11 to 12 a. m. on all three days of the ANTEC. On Tuesday, May 6th a prominent automotive executive, Jerry Sturdivant, Body Systems Operations Leader of Saturn Corporation will be the plenary guest speaker. The Automotive Division business meeting will be held at the 2003 ANTEC at the end of the afternoon session on May 6.



For more information on ANTEC,  
visit [www.antec.ws](http://www.antec.ws)

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# Treasurer's Report

Stuart C. Cohen

The current assets of the Division are \$98,497.

Although we have now received most of the outstanding sponsorship payments and revenues for replicas from the November 2002 Awards Banquet, the few that are outstanding are causing a small deficit from this event. The 2003 Awards Banquet committee are considering ways to reduce the operating costs for this event while maintaining its high quality.

[www.speautomotive.com](http://www.speautomotive.com)

# Membership Report

Bing Xu

As of December 31, 2002, the Automotive Division had 1,076 primary members and 496 secondary members. Compared to last year, this is a 15% decrease.

The Board has held a number of meetings on the membership issue. A plan was developed to address how to maintain and increase Division membership. The membership committee will work with the Automotive Division Education and Technical Program committees to fully utilize current and new programs/conferences to bring in more potential new members, including student members. We will also work with SPE HQ to increase awareness and create more benefits and helps to our members.

## Board of Directors Meeting Schedule and Special Events Calendar

May 4-8, 2003	SPE ANTEC (Annual Technical Conference)
Nashville Convention Center & Renaissance Hotel Nashville, Tennessee	
June 9, 2003	Detroit Section Golf Outing
September 9-10, 2003	Automotive Composites Conference
MSU Management Education Center	
September 29-October 1, 2003	Automotive TPO Global Conference
Dearborn, MI	

Automotive Division Board Meetings are usually held at the American Plastics Council in Troy, MI. Meetings are open to all SPE members. Call Suzanne Cole at 810.750.3863 for more information.



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# Chairman's Message

Suzanne Cole



As I conclude my year as Chairman of the SPE Automotive Division, I reflect on the tremendous challenges that are on-going for the automotive and plastics industries.

The business downturn of 2003 is testing the plans and practices of many automotive plastics molders, processors and raw material suppliers; and changing how every company does business. Companies that make it through the down times do so with Darwinian dexterity. They have adapted to marketplace change and found ways to fit within the evolving paradigm of demand and supply.

The Detroit area is bracing for a list of supplier failures in the second quarter. The auto-plastics and metal-forming sectors are ripe with distress. Many of these smaller suppliers have been struggling but surviving for the last two years. Some have been driven out of business but most have maintained themselves due to the fact that auto production volumes and sales remained high, often sustained by zero percent financing deals and automakers building up their inventory of unsold vehicles.

2003 production volumes are down as sales slow and automakers no longer need to build up inventory. Auto inventories at the end of February were 18 percent higher than usual, and GM's inventory was 22 percent higher than usual. This means hundreds of thousands of unsold vehicles sitting on dealer and assembly plant lots in an industry that was slowing even before the war in Iraq began. The big problem that many suppliers are confronted with is the volumes are down but the debt is still there.

Both Ford and GM, the automakers that Michigan suppliers are most reliant on, have cut their second quarter production dramatically. GM cut production 9.6 percent from the second quarter of 2002; Ford cut its production 17 percent.

Companies that do not upgrade operations in step with market demands will be at a disadvantage. A tremendous amount of volume hides a lot of sins in an operation. When business slows down, a company can quickly go from being profitable to unprofitable.

A lesson that many companies are learning from the down turn is they need to develop people and invest in the expansion of their networks. The optimal route to success is having smart, motivated people whose expertise, insight and relationships increase business. SPE is the perfect place to make that happen!

The SPE Automotive division has been and will continue to be the perfect place for automotive company employees who need to expand their network, knowledge, and understanding of plastics. The division is on a path toward offering more programs to involve more members and expand our network. We have several programs that will enable you to expand your knowledge and network. The Composites conference will be held in September in conjunction with the SPE Composites division and promises to be an outstanding program. The Automotive Awards night held annually in November to recognize outstanding innovations in automotive plastics is a must attend. The ability to network with colleagues from the OEM, molding, processing and raw materials sectors of the business is unparalleled.

This year we have joined with the American Plastics Council to sponsor the College for Creative Studies Senior (CCS) project on designing with plastics. SPE automotive division engineers from GM, Ford, DaimlerChrysler, MSX, Huntsman, GE, and others have worked with CCS design students to open their eyes and broaden their horizons to the multitude of design options made possible by plastics. This program presents a great opportunity for engineers to shape the thinking of young designers who will graduate and join automakers in the fall. At the same time it's a great opportunity for the students to learn from experienced engineers and begin to develop their own networks.

And one of the highlights of the year...the golf outing is right around the corner! So get involved in the many exciting programs that the division is orchestrating. In down times you need to expand and build your network for the future. Is your network extensive enough to weather the challenges that lay ahead? If not you should get involved in SPE today.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to serve the SPE Automotive division. Our Chairman for 2003-2004 will be Monica Prokopysheh from DaimlerChrysler. Monica is a very professional, competent and capable leader! I look forward to working with her to make next year a benchmark year for the society!

## Call For Papers

# 3rd Annual SPE AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE



SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS Automotive & Composites Divisions

## Polymer Composites

Cost Effective Solutions for Lighter, Safer Vehicles

### Attendance

The Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) International invite you to attend the 3rd Annual SPE Automotive Composites Conference and Exposition, September 9 - 10, 2003. The conference will feature technical paper sessions, VIP panel discussions, keynote speakers, & exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and applications for both thermoset and thermoplastic composites. Sessions currently planned include:

- New Composite Materials, Processes, & Applications
- Leading-Edge Composite Vehicles
- Enabling Technologies for Composites
- Advancements in Reinforcement Technologies
- Finishing & Decorating Composites
- Bonding & Joining Composites
- Composites for Fuel Cells and Hybrid Powertrain
- Composites for Commercial Transport

### Paper Submissions

Individuals or organizations interested in presenting at the conference should submit **Abstracts** no later than **April 18** and **Papers** by **June 30** to allow time for peer review. E-mail to Maria Ciliberti, Owens Corning Automotive, [maria.ciliberti@owenscorning.com](mailto:maria.ciliberti@owenscorning.com) or Michael Connolly, Huntsman Polyurethanes, [michael.connolly@huntsman.com](mailto:michael.connolly@huntsman.com). Approved papers will be distributed on a CD to conference attendees.

### Exhibition / Sponsorship

A variety of sponsorship packages, including advertising and publicity, tickets, and other promotional opportunities are available. Companies interested in exhibiting or sponsoring the event should contact Tim Simko of PolyWheels at [tsimko@polywheels.com](mailto:tsimko@polywheels.com).

Sept. 9-10, 2003

MSU Management  
Education Center

811 W. Square Lake Road  
Troy, MI, USA

### For More Information

For more information on the Automotive Composites Conference, or to register for this important event, visit the SPE Automotive Division website at [www.speautomotive.com](http://www.speautomotive.com) or contact Pat Levine at +1.248.241.8993; or send an e-mail to [spe@plastics.org](mailto:spe@plastics.org) or write SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy MI 48061, USA.

# SPE AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE

## Corporate Sponsorship Opportunities

### Why Sponsor?

- Sponsorship helps offset the cost of organizing the conference, allowing SPE to keep registration costs low and quality high.
- The sponsoring organization receives numerous benefits that help the company gain greater visibility for its products and services.
- A press kit, including sponsor-provided press releases and product announcements, will be distributed to media invited from leading plastics, composites, and automotive industry trade publications.

### Who Should Sponsor?

Molders/component suppliers, resin companies, machinery and secondary equipment manufacturers, and filler/additive suppliers involved in the automotive composites market.

### Sponsorship Options

#### Premier Sponsor: \$4,000

- Four complimentary passes for the conference (\$1,600 value) for employees or key customers.
- One-half-page advertisement in the Conference Proceedings book.
- Inclusion of company name (and, where appropriate, logo) in promotions, press releases, banners, and other communications leading up to and at the conference.
- Preferred location for tabletop display, if purchased separately (see below).

#### Associate Sponsor: \$2,000

- Two complimentary passes for the conference (\$800 value).
- One quarter-page advertisement in the Conference Proceedings book.
- Inclusion of company name (and, where appropriate, logo) in promotions, press releases, banners, and other communications leading up to and at the conference.

#### Tabletop Exhibitor: \$500 for Sponsors; \$1,500 for Non-Sponsors

- Exhibit space at MSU is limited, so tabletop exhibits will initially be reserved for Premier and Associate Sponsors at an additional cost of \$500.
- After July 15<sup>th</sup>, tabletop space, if available, will be open to non-sponsors at a cost of \$1,500.
- Includes one complimentary pass for the conference (\$400 value) for employees or key customers.

#### Proceedings Book Advertising Sponsor:

- Advertising space in the Conference Proceedings book is available at the following rates: full page = \$1,500; half-page = \$1,000; and quarter page = \$500.
- All ads are four color.

#### Event Sponsor (for special impact & unique company recognition):

- Lunch Sponsor (one / day) = \$4,000 (includes same benefits as Premier Sponsor)
- Cocktail Reception Sponsor (first night only) = \$4,000 (includes same benefits as Premier Sponsor)
- Refreshments/Coffee Breaks (one / day) = \$2,000 (includes same benefits as Associate Sponsor)

For conference sponsorship participation, please contact:

Tim Simko or Mary Ann Hockmuth of Polywheels at [tsimko@polywheels.com](mailto:tsimko@polywheels.com) or [mhockmuth@polywheels.com](mailto:mhockmuth@polywheels.com)

For additional information on the Automotive Composites Conference, visit the Automotive Division's website at [www.speautomotive.com](http://www.speautomotive.com);

or contact Pat Levine at +1.248.244.8993;

or send an e-mail to [spe@plastics.org](mailto:spe@plastics.org);

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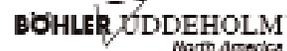
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# Automotive Division Board of Directors Meeting Minutes February 10, 2003 Board Meeting

## Chairperson Report-Suzanne Cole

Next meeting will on April 15 in Troy. Suzanne asked the board members to bring a non-member to the next board meeting to grow membership and obtain more support for SPE volunteer efforts.

Suzanne suggested we award Kevin Pageau a commemorative plaque for his extensive contribution to the SPE board and Awards Night Program. Bing Xu seconded the motion. Board approved unanimously.

Suzanne also suggested that we evaluate an alliance with Detroit Section to develop a strategy for membership growth.

## Treasurer Report-Stuart Cohen

-There is \$88,470 in SPE savings account.  
-Stuart reviewed payments from Award Night Sponsors. There are some past due accounts which need to be contacted.

## 2003 Awards Night Committee – Stuart Cohen

The committee had their first meeting. Following are the highlights reviewed by Stuart:

- Targeting November 10<sup>th</sup> or November 17<sup>th</sup> for the 2003 ceremony.
- Themes are being reviewed. Expect to present proposals to the board in the future.
- Considering an installment payment plan for sponsors.
- Will try to get more involvement from local University students.
- The annual achievement award will be renamed Outstanding Achievement Award.

## Councilor Report –Dave Arndt

- SPE is evaluating a broader insurance policy to cover SPE boards.
- The responses to the survey of key membership needs were:
  - Sense of Community
  - Prestige
  - Access to Industry Technical Information
- SPE is developing a plan to improve membership based on the key needs defined in the survey.
- 2003 membership is projected to decline by about 15%.
- Expenses will be cut by approximately \$1,000,000 to match revised revenue projection.

SPE technical conferences did well in 2002. The Automotive Division Composite Conference was the 5<sup>th</sup> largest of 13 total conferences. The Automotive Division sent 30% of the proceeds to SPE National. Our alliance partner, Composite Division, also forwarded a share of the proceeds.

- The SPE foundation is asking Divisions and Councilors for sponsors at ANTEC. Donations will go towards sponsorships and educational grants. Dave Arnt motioned we provide \$1000 to the SPE Foundation. Fred Deans seconded motion. Board passed unanimously.
- The board reviewed various scholarship proposals. Fred Deans suggested we set aside a portion of our budget for scholarship awards.

## Membership Report – Bing Xu

- Bing reviewed his plan for 2003. Propose that we utilize Safety Conference, TPO Conference, and various Education Programs to enroll new members.
- Bing also proposed that we consider subsidizing student members when they are enrolled in our Automotive Division programs/training sessions.
- Approach Corporate sponsors for support.
- Work with SPE HQ to promote membership package.

## Education - Darryl Sadowski

- SPE sponsored 11 Plastivan school visits in November and December.
- Future visit is planned for March 14 at Birmingham Seaholm HS Explorathon. Expect 1000 students to attend.

## New Business

- Dave Arndt proposed we present a financial gift at future SPE Councilor meeting, in the name of Harold Giles. Fred Deans motioned that we

designate \$1500 student scholarship to the Harold Giles Scholarship at the council meeting at ANTEC. This proposal would be contingent upon the Automotive Division having input into the scholarship selection process. Michael Connolly seconded the motion. Board unanimously approved.

- Josh Madden proposed that SPE develop a CD directory. Dave Arndt felt that SPE National could help. The membership committee will review idea. Further dialogue to occur at future meeting.

- Fred Deans motioned that we continue scholarship funds for the Fred Schwab Scholarship Fund and ANTEC Scholarship. The nomination was seconded by Greg Korchnak. The Board unanimously approved.

- Josh Ulrich volunteered to be the Education Committee Chairman.

## University of Michigan Outreach Program - Josh Madden

- The car seats are ready to go. We need to finalize ideas for safety-in-a-box program. Plan to provide prototypes soon. Josh needs volunteers to obtain supplies for 1000 kits.
- Josh will develop a list of needed items and send to Board.

## 2003 Composite Conference - Michael Connolly

- Scheduled for September 9 and 10<sup>th</sup> at MSU Education Center in Troy
- The 2003 committee had their first meeting. Will provide a program proposal with timelines in April.
- A preliminary logo has already been developed.
- Goal is to stress new applications and materials.
- Multiple sponsorship levels will be available this year.

## 2003 ANTEC - Jay Raison

- The conference will be in Nashville, TN May 4 through May 8. A CD ROM will be provided this year.

## 2004 Safety Conference - Monica Prokopyshen

- Targeting February 2004 for next conference

## Publicity/Web Site – Peggy Malnati

- New website is near completion
- Peggy is providing support for Awards Night, Composite Conference, and Plastivan Explorathon at Birmingham Seaholm HS
- Proposed that we consider a resource directory. Asked for suggestions and contacts.
- Proposed that we consider crating a generic SPE template which can be used for advertising.
- The template could state our purpose and mission statement.

## CCS Project – Josh Madden and Monica Prokopyshen

- Josh recently provided a technical review session at CCS. Focused on reparability of resins.
- The CCS is currently developing their renderings
- Next visit will be on Feb 27
- The CCS showing will be at DIA on May 8
- Monica will forward information to Peggy

## House-Ed Garnham

- Next meeting is April 15
- Asked the board members to bring a non member. Let Suzanne know if you are not bringing anyone.

**Your company can help sponsor  
the Automotive Division Newsletter**

*Contact Teri Chouinard for more  
information*

**(810) 797.7242**

**teri@intuitgroup.com**

# Explorathon 2003

*SPE Automotive Division supports youth education*

On March 14, 2003, over 900 girls in grades 8 through 12 participated in Explorathon 2003 at Seaholm High School. This annual event brought together over 60 female scientists, mathematicians, engineers, and health care specialists in workshops that allowed students to explore opportunities in science, mathematics, health care and technology careers.

The SPE Automotive Division provided three workshops (63 students) on "Designing with Plastics", and also sponsored the Plastivan to supplement the workshop with a well received "hands-on" element to the sessions.

Some comments from the students:

*"Very cool hands-on experiments."*

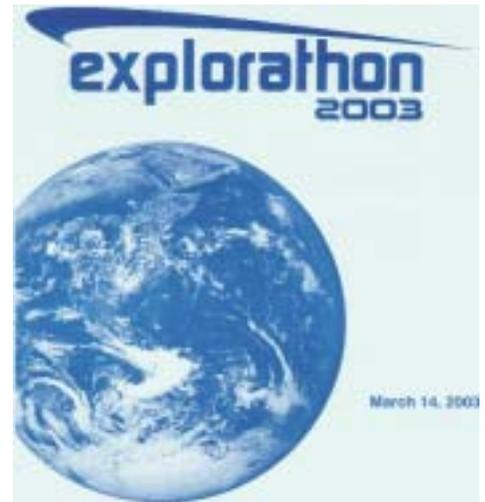
*"This session rocked!"*

*"I learned how effective plastics are and how they are used."*

*"Plastics are everywhere!"*

*"I learned how plastic was made & it was interesting because we use plastic everyday."*

*"It helped me learn that this is something I would want to do."*



## SPE Automotive

## TPO Global Conference 2003

September 29th thru October 1-3, 2000

Hyatt Regency, Dearborn, Michigan



The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) is drawing some of the world's most knowledgeable technical marketing and processing experts to share their perspectives and developments on one of the fastest growing polymers in the automotive industry. This conference is a unique forum to learn and meet the key people in the field of Automotive TPO's.

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** ABSTRACT DEADLINE - APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2003  
COMPLETED PAPERS - AUGUST 18<sup>TH</sup>, 2003

If you would like to present an abstract/paper, please contact one of the individuals below:

### Interior Applications

Bob Eller (330) 760-9566

### Exterior Applications

Richard Luxgrant (248) 576-5043

Thomas Pickett (586) 492-2454

### Painting & Alternative Decoration

Dr. Rose A. Ryntz (313) 755-6164

### Process Developments

Bruce Denison (248) 391-9503

Suresh Shaw (248) 655-8695

### Material Developments

Paula Fasulo (586) 986-1249

Ted Klimek (888) 750-3126

For Information and Registration call Pat Levine at (248) 244-8993

[www.auto-tpo.com](http://www.auto-tpo.com)

# ANTEC 2003 Conference Schedule



## Sunday, May 4

Fun Walk 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm  
Opening Reception 8:30 pm - 10:30 pm

## Monday, May 5

Speaker/Usher Breakfast 6:30 am - 7:30 am  
Technical Sessions 8:00 am - 11:00 am  
Technical Plenary Session 11:00 am - 12 noon  
Lunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm  
Technical Sessions 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Exhibit Hall Opening Reception 3:00 pm - 6:30 pm

## Tuesday, May 6

Speaker/Usher Breakfast 6:30 am - 7:30 am  
Technical Sessions 8:00 am - 11:00 am  
Plenary Session/Non-Compete Exhibit Hour 11:00 am - 12 noon  
Lunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm  
Technical Sessions 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Exhibits 11:00 am - 6:30 pm

## Wednesday, May 7

Speaker/Usher Breakfast 6:30 am - 7:30 am  
Technical Sessions 8:00 am - 11:00 am  
Plenary Session/Non-Compete Exhibit Hour 11:00 am - 12 noon  
Lunch 12 noon - 1:30 pm  
Technical Sessions 1:30 pm - 6:00 pm  
Exhibits 11:00 am - 4:00 pm  
President's Reception & Banquet 7:00 pm - Midnight

For more information on ANTEC 2003 visit

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## Automotive Session T8

### *Characterization of Automotive Plastics*

Tuesday Morning

Moderator: Jay Raison - Delphi Corp.

# 1116 (8:00 AM)

#### **Diffusion of Methanol, Ethanol and Toluene in Nylon 12 and Poly(Butyleneterephthate)**

McCourt, M.P.; Mc Nally, G.M.; Ruddy, A.C. and Murphy, W.R., - Queen's University of Belfast  
The results show that substantial solvent uptake was noted for Nylon in methanol and ethanol. Solvent uptake in PBT occurred only at the higher temperatures in toluene.

#1009 (8:30 AM)

#### **Degradation of Rubber Networks During the Ultrasonic Treatment**

Yashin, Victor V.; Isayev, Avraam I.; Kim, Seok-Ho; Hong, Chang-Kook; Shim, Sang-Eun and Yun, Jushik - University of Akron  
Filler loading leads to a progressive scission of main chains during the ultrasonic treatment.

#1015 (9:00 AM)

#### **Alternatives to Coatings for Automotive Plastics**

Kakarala, Norm and Pickett, Tom - Delphi Automotive Systems/General Motors Corporation  
New colorants and modifiers and new advances in extrusion, co extrusion, injection molding, laminating films, and thermoforming of multiplayer sheets have been developed.

#397 (9:30 AM)

#### **Affects of Orientation on Flexural Modulus and Stress Relaxation**

Knepper, Peter Collins and Himes, Kevin Daniel - Pennsylvania State University, The Behrend College  
The degree of orientation of the polymer chains varies depending on the thickness of the part, fill rate, and temperature of the mold.

#318 (10:00 AM)

#### **Key Advances in Automotive Materials, Processes and Applications**

Shah, Suresh D. - Delphi  
The applications mainly involve interior, exterior, under-the-hood and chassis/hardware.

#316 (10:30 AM)

#### **Reduction of Moisture Sensitivity of Flax Fibres and Flax Fibre Reinforced Polypropylene**

Bledzki, Andrzej K. and Lucka, Marta - University of Kassel  
Acetylation of the fibres reduced the moisture sorption into the fibres up to 50% and its composites up to 83%.

## Automotive Session T27

### Automotive Plastics Applications

Tuesday Afternoon

Moderator: Michael Shoemaker - Dow Chemical Company

#898 (1:30 PM)

#### Mechanical Behavior of TPV in Automotive Sealing Systems

Zoetelief, Wim; Teeuwen, Marcel and Wang, Yundong - DSM TPE Inc

A simplified lip-seal geometry of TPV is evaluated experimentally and numerically using FEA and used for optimizing the design and in aspects of material modeling.

#1081 (2:00 PM)

#### Structural Analysis of Components Molded Using Microcellular Foam Molding Process

Desai, Sameer; Ansari, Mohammed and Saunders, W. Daniel - Valeo Engine Cooling/ DuPont Engineering Polymers

MuCellR will be tested and simulation method will be applied to determine if the same correlation as obtained in the solid parts can be achieved.

#1014 (2:30 PM)

#### Abrasion Resistance Requirements for Automotive Interior Soft Skin Materials

Pickett, Tom - General Motors

The OEMs, the part manufacturers, material suppliers, and coating suppliers need to work together to address these questions in a way that would be mutually beneficial to all parties as well as the to ultimate customer, the owner of the vehicle.

#112 (3:00 PM)

#### Characterizing Scratch and Mar Performance of Molded-In-Color Engineered Polyolefins for the Automotive Industry

Bafna, Sudhir; Shah, Mitesh and Edge, David - Solvay Engineering Polymers

Mar is characterized by gloss retention after abrasion in a crockmeter. Scratch can be characterized by an instrumented microscratcher and chip resistance is also measured.

#910 (3:30 PM)

#### Building Better Automotive Body Sealing Systems with FEA

Shi, Linhuo - TG North America Corp

Body seal design via computer-aided-engineering includes the effect of rubber and environment, short and long term performance, acoustic effects, and some uncertainties.

#182 (4:00 PM)

#### Peroxide Initiated Grafting of Alkoxysilanes from Poly(Isobutylene-co-Para-methylstyrene) Utilizing a Co-rotating Twin Screw Extruder

Tabler, Raymond L.; Peitz, Thomas A. and Shim, Anne K. - Dow Corning Corporation

Grafting produced novel, curable, grafted elastomers with excellent barrier properties. One of these polymers is a coating in a commercial application.

(4:30 PM)

#### Molded-In-Color Film Fascia Using Thermoforming and Injection Molding Processes

Invited Speaker

## Resin Molding Systems for the Automotive Industry

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# Councilor's Corner

R. David Arndt

The Council is made of plastics industry volunteers forming a 6 officer Executive Committee including Mike Capelletti, paid Executive Director, 9 Vice Presidents, 21 Division Councilors, and 84 regional Section Councilors. The council meets 3 times each year and governs the 22,000 member Society.

I attended the winter council meeting in San Antonio on Jan. 17-18, 2003. Divisions committee asked what would be financial impact if we gave back our rebate ½ in Jan. and ½ in June each year? Automotive Division responded to request to delay our rebate this year.

We were asked if there is a need for a book on Automotive Plastics. A book on Extrusion Technology is available for sale from SPE.

There was continued discussion the Divisions meeting on using e-Newsletters instead of typed and mailed versions. Two divisions have gone completely to email of their newsletters, no hard copies.

A petition was approved for a new Section in formation in Spain and full sectional status to Portugal Section.

The spending budget for 2003 has been reduced \$1M based on end of year membership of 21000. The Society will show a loss of (\$260,000) for 2002 compared to a loss of \$500,000 in 2001. Total income for 2002 was \$1.5M less than budget. Many actions are in place to reduce expenses. SPE is again responsible for the educational program at NPE. SPE Europe plans 3 conferences for 2003. An assistant has been hired in our European office to aid Yetti Pawls. Growth in Europe last year was over 30% rising to over 1000 members.

The Supplier Partners for the Environment, a group made from members of the automotive industry, has filed to establish their new name. It is being blocked by the SPE as they would use the same acronym, SPE.

Loss of membership and what to do to retain and add new memberships were the most important topics for discussed. A "white paper" on understanding member needs was presented to the Council. The key member needs based on surveys are 1) a sense of community, 2) access to industry & technical information, and 3) Prestige. Members also expressed desire to have SPE address their critical industry issues as economic problems, US plastics industry moving internationally, and industry consolidation. Membership is key to the continued success of the Society. A brainstorm session was held and all members voted on ideas they felt had the most impact on declining membership. The results of the session will be presented to all Divisions.

New officers were elected at the council meeting. Karen Winkler (Dow) was elected President-elect, Len Czuba (Czuba Enterprises) was elected Senior VP, and Rick Williams (Integrity Plastics) was elected VP from the Sections. I feel these were excellent choices who have a lot of energy and plan to do good things for SPE.

I will be attending the next council meeting in Nashville May 3 & 4, 2003 just prior the ANTEC.

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# Safety in a Box

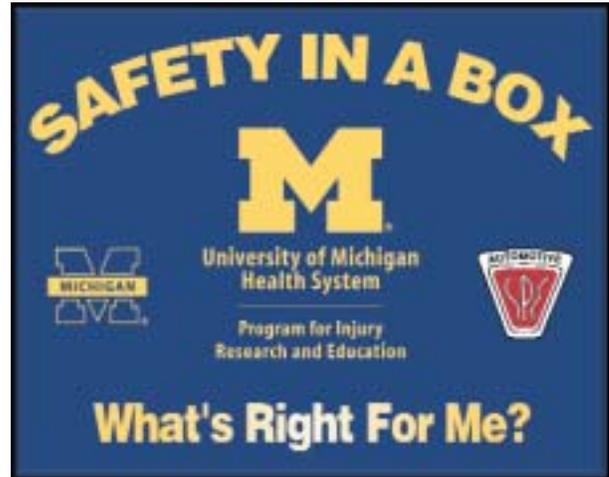
Automotive Division & UM "Team Up" for Automotive Child Safety Program

SPE's Automotive Division and the University of Michigan have joined to promote the use of booster seats for toddler safety. With the theme "What's Right For Me?" the program focuses on educating toddlers (children 4 to 9 years old, greater than 40 lbs., and up to 4' 9" in height). These children need booster seat protection, because seat belts are made for adults.

The University of Michigan program is headed by Dr. Stuart Wang of UMPIRE, University of Michigan Program for Injury Research and Education. Dr. Wang and his staff are engaged in a variety of automotive safety activities, including the toddler-focused "What's right For Me?" outreach program. According to Sandy Lemkin, UMPIRE Program Coordinator, with the use of proper restraints over 2/3 of all toddler injuries can be prevented. A recent government study showed that less than half of parents and care givers were even aware of booster seats. Most had no concerns about their child's safety in an adult seat belt.



The Automotive Division's interest in this program stems from our concern and commitment to improving automotive safety systems by the proper use of plastics. Through the sponsoring of recent our Global Automotive Safety Conference(s), SPE has helped create a critical awareness between regulators,



OEMs, suppliers, and interested parties with the need for better scientific and technical applications of plastics for improving automotive safety.

According to Josh Madden, SPE Automotive Division Director Emeritus, "we at SPE feel strongly that our mission of education on plastics ideally fits in the support of the UMPIRE programs. Developing and manufacturing plastic safety systems and promoting the use of child booster seat use goes hand in hand with our professional and personal lives."

The booster seat program starts this spring and is focused on Michigan residents. In addition to UMPIRE and SPE, other organizations such as DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Co., Bosch, Continental, and IEE have offered their assistance.

SPE and UMPIRE are looking for additional support and sponsorship. For information on this program, please contact SPE's Josh Madden at (248) 829-6335 or UMPIRE's Sandy Lemkin at (734) 998-6348.

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