



Vinyl Division

Winter 2023/24

Chair's Message

Hello & Happy New Year!



As everyone is getting going into 2024, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on some Division highlights from 2023. It was a great year for the Vinyl Division including new directors, student scholarships, and a great Vinyltec® in Akron, OH. There are a few numbers from last year that I would like to focus on.

25% - The percentage of first-time directors on the BOD. We have continued to see growing engagement from members across the Division. This includes the BOD, TPC, and first time Vinyltec® attendees. If you are interested in getting more involved in the division, please reach out to me to discuss opportunities.

\$9,500 - The total contribution to scholarships made by the Division in 2023. This included three Vinyl Division scholarships to children of division members, and a contribution to the SPE Foundation to award. If you would like to learn more or apply for a division scholarship, please contact our Education Chair, Andy Bourgeois.

250 - The final attendance for the 2023 Vinyltec® in Akron, OH. I think it is safe to say we have bounced back from the pandemic with increasing attendance year on year since 2021. This year we are headed back to Chicago for what will certainly be another great event. Please contact Brittany Walls, TPC Chair, if you would like to help with planning, sponsorship, or present at Vinyltec®.

I am looking forward to another great year for the SPE Vinyl Division!

All the best,
Sam Timpa

Samuel D. Timpa, Ph.D.
Chair, Vinyl Division

The Vinyl Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers exists to stimulate and encourage the interchange of non-proprietary information, and to promote the scientific and engineering knowledge related to vinyl plastics technology.

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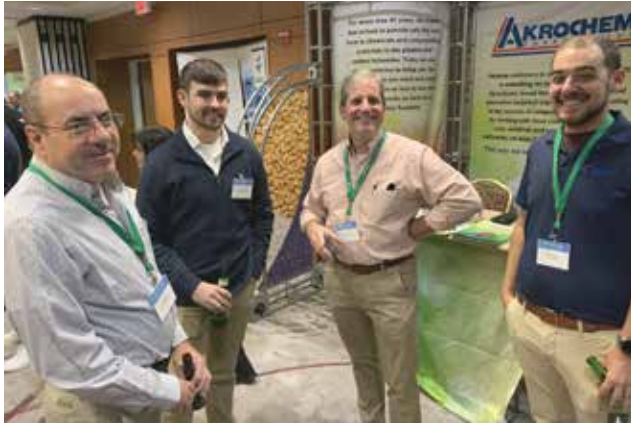
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Vinyltec® 2023 in Akron, Ohio was a resounding success with over 250 attendees. In addition to the largest in-person turnout for Vinyltec® in the last 10 years, our conference included a diverse mix of vinyl veterans and newcomers to the plastics industry. 25% of our attendees were first-timers, and the PVC 101 tutorial was a great introduction for people new to the world of vinyl.

Nearly a third of our attendees were under age 40 and possessing 5 years or less experience in PVC, and half of the conference was comprised of people who have been involved with the industry for less than 10 years. This healthy mix of newcomers and seasoned veterans is a good sign for our industry. In addition, funds generated from the conference allowed us to return a substantial donation to SPE for education and scholarships.

Be sure to mark your calendars for Vinyltec® 2024 in Chicago on October 22nd -24th. Your suppliers and customers will be there – will you?



Awards Committee Chairman's Report

Awards were presented at Vinyltec® to recognize several outstanding contributions to the Vinyl Division.

First a “Big Thanks” to all who served on the Vinyltec® 2023 Technical Program Committee and the Akron House Committee. In tribute to all the volunteers and their efforts in planning and execution of the conference, the Vinyl Division recognized this year’s committee chairs; **Raechel Sincavage** Technical Program Committee Chair and **Dave Schultz** Akron House Chair. Thanks to their combined efforts in leading their teams we had a very successful 2023 Vinyltec®. As mentioned, in-person turnout was the largest in the last 10 years, and we are able to provide a significant contribution to SPE for plastics education.

Each Year we promote the contributions to Vinyl by recognizing quality presentations that teach us about vinyl technology and business. The Vinyltec® audience is the judge.

The Awards Committee is proud to present Best Paper for Vinyltec® 2022 Awards

- Technical Paper Gold Award – **Marc Strand/ Robert Young**, for Co-Polyester Additives for Rigid PVC
- Technical Paper Silver Award – **Bryan Debois** for Industrial AI: Current State and Looking to the Future
- Best Commercial Paper – **Matt Dobson** for Polymeric Cladding: Sustainability, Resiliency and Design, VSI Workforce Initiative

The best papers for 2023 will be presented in Chicago at Vinyltec® 2024.

This year’s winner of our Outstanding Service Award is **Mark Lavach**. Mark has demonstrated long-term, outstanding service to, and support of, the Vinyl Division and the Society and its mission to support the development of plastics professionals.

This year our Technical Contributions Award went to Dr. Peter Frenkel. Very well deserved as Peter also was recognized by the plastics industry as he became our newest SPE Fellow. Congratulations.

The Fellow awards ceremony will take place during the Society’s 82nd Annual Technical Conference (ANTEC® 2024) in St. Louis, Missouri on March 6. Hope to see you there.



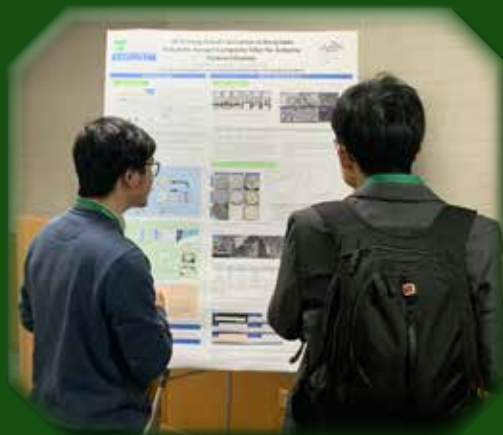
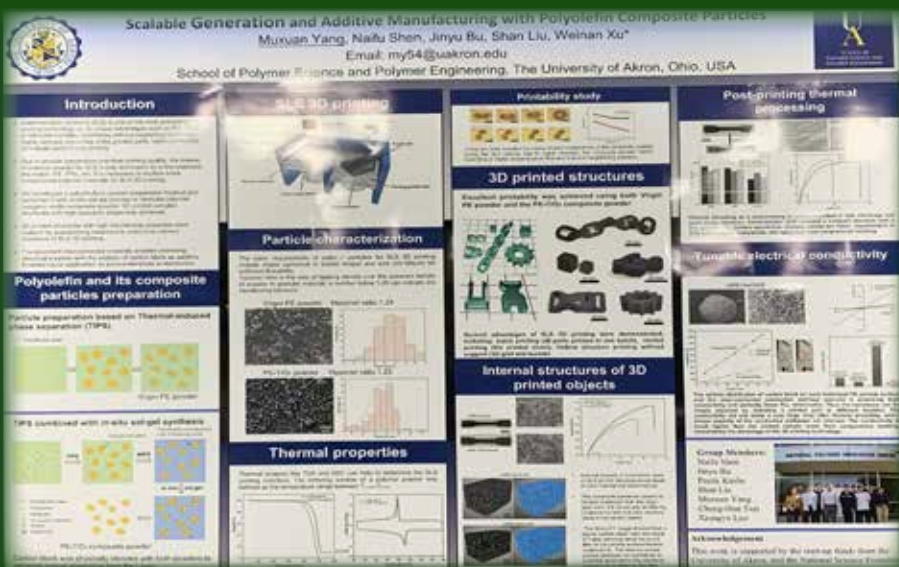
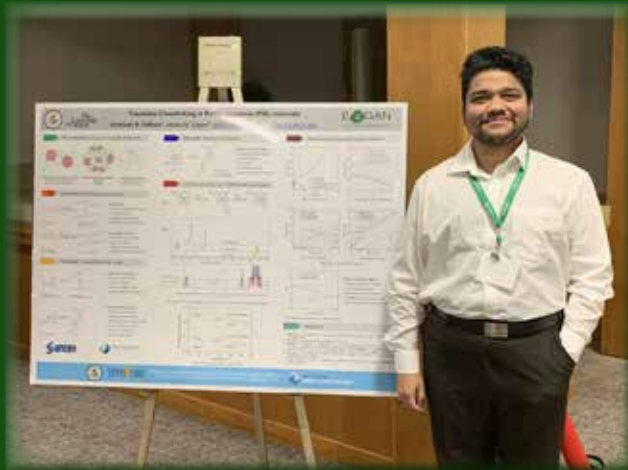
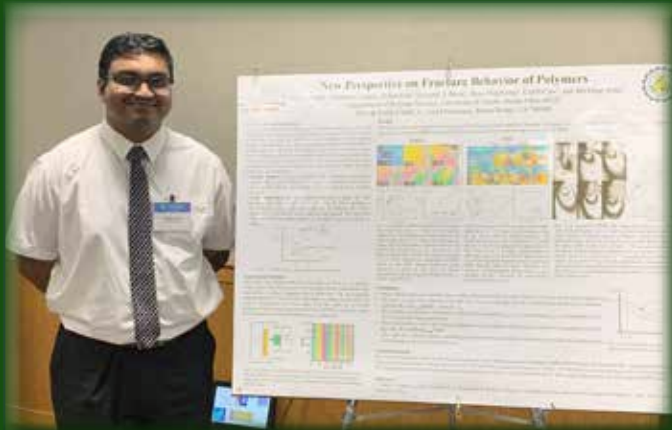
Dave Schultz (*Akron Chair*), Sam Timpa (*Vinyl Division President*), Raechel Sincavage (*TPC Chair*).



Sam presents Silver Award to Bryan Debois (*Industrial AI*)

Beth Griffin
Vinyl Division Awards Chairman

Vinyltec® 2023 Student Poster Photo Highlights



Andy Bourgeois
Andy Bourgeois

2023 Vinyl Plastics Division Scholarship Recipient



Emma Springer
Pittsburg State University

Emma Springer is a Plastics Engineering Technology student at Pittsburg State University. Emma is working towards her Bachelor's degree of Science in Engineering Technology. Emma is also working towards a Mechanical CAD Certificate. Currently in her senior year, Emma is set to graduate in the Spring of 2024. Prior to Pittsburg State University, Emma attended and graduated from Fort Scott Community College. She graduated in May 2021 with an Associate of Art degree, the same year that she graduated from high school. Emma is also a member and president of the Pittsburg State University chapter of Society of Women Engineers.

Thank you for awarding me the SPE Foundation Vinyl Plastics Division Scholarship for the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 school year. This \$2,000 will really help me get through school during this next year. I am a Plastics Engineering Technology major in my senior year. I plan to graduate in the spring of 2024 and find employment in eastern Kansas. I sincerely thank you for this scholarship. It will help me get through this next year and start my future career without having to worry about paying for school. I really appreciate your generosity and consideration in this recognition.



Education Chair Report

As of January 13 we have 15 student members in our Division. In this newsletter, I would like to focus on opportunities for scholarships. In addition to the SPE Foundation Scholarships (*see next page*) college students can also apply for the Vinyl Division scholarships. These scholarships are open to children of vinyl division members in good standing for at least two years.

The SPE Vinyl Division Education Grant Application

Application Deadline May 31, 2024

[Click here](#) to get more details at the website.

Email completed application to Andy Bourgeois abourgeois@shin-tech.com

Date_____

Name of Applicant_____

Last (family name)	First Name	Middle Initial
--------------------	------------	----------------

Home Address:

Street_____

City_____ State/Province_____ Zip/Postal Code_____

Home Phone_____ Email Address_____

Grade Point Average Last Semester_____ Cumulative GPA_____

Parents Name(s)_____, _____

Addresses_____

SPE # of Member Parent_____

Hometown Newspaper_____, _____

Name	Address
------	---------

If Married, Spouse's Name_____

College Information:

School applicant will attend in autumn_____

School Address_____

Major_____ Degree Expected_____

If already enrolled in college, how many years have you completed?_____

(Transcript and photo must accompany this application)

Please see the following page for additional scholarship opportunities and available up to April 1, 2024

Andy Bourgeois
Andy Bourgeois,
Education Committee Chair

**The SPE Foundation offers numerous scholarships to students
who have demonstrated or expressed an interest in the plastics industry.**

They must be majoring in or taking courses that would be beneficial to a career in the plastics industry. This would include, but is not limited to, plastics engineering, polymer science, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, industrial engineering, journalism or communications. All applicants must be in good standing with their colleges.

APPLICATIONS FOR OUR 2024-2025 SCHOLARSHIPS ARE OPEN UNTIL APRIL 1, 2024.

ABOUT

The SPE Foundation, an affiliate of the Society of Plastics Engineers, offers numerous scholarships to students who have demonstrated or expressed an interest in the plastics industry. They must be majoring in or taking courses that would be beneficial to a career in the plastics industry. This would include, but is not limited to, plastics engineering, polymer science, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, and industrial engineering. All applicants must be in good standing with their colleges.

While most scholarships do not require specific knowledge or have special criteria, some scholarships are limited in scope. Please be sure to include the specific information that is required to be submitted with your application. Also, please do not apply for any scholarship for which you are not eligible.

ELIGIBILITY

- 👤 Applicants for all Foundation scholarships, unless otherwise specified, must be full-time undergraduate students in either a four-year college or a two-year technical program or enrolled in a graduate program.
- 👤 Applicants must have demonstrated or expressed an interest in the plastics industry.
- 👤 Applicants must be majoring in or taking courses that are beneficial to a career in the plastics/polymer industry. This would include, but is not limited to, plastics engineering, polymer science, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, and industrial engineering.
- 👤 Applicants must be in good academic standing with their schools.
Financial need is considered for most scholarships.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must complete a scholarship application and return it to The SPE Foundation. The application submitted must include: A completed application form. [Click here for application form](#)

- 👤 Three recommendation letters: two from teachers or school officials and one from an employer or non-relative, all of whom know you well. The Extrusion Division/Lew Erwin, ACCE and Jackie Rehkopf Scholarship applications require that one recommendation letter must be from the Faculty Advisor associated with the Senior, MS, or Ph.D. project.
- 👤 A high school and / or college transcript for the past two years. If you are unable to attach the transcripts to the application, they can be emailed to foundation@4spe.org or mailed to the address that can be found at the end of the application.
- 👤 A list of current and past school activities and community activities and honors.
- 👤 A listing of your employment history, starting with your most recent job where your involvement was in plastics/polymers. Describe that activity.

All applicants are eligible for Foundation General Scholarships, and must submit a one or two page essay telling why you are applying for the scholarship, your qualifications, and your educational and career goals in the plastics industry. Additional essays may be required for individual scholarships.

VALUE OF THE AWARD

Scholarship amounts vary between \$1,000 – \$6,000.

[Click here to go directly to the SPE Link](#)

IS YOUR VENDOR KEEPING PACE WITH YOU?



The 2021 & 2022 supply chain crunch exposed weaknesses in supply chain and capacity around the globe. It is more important than ever to make sure that you are partnered with vendors that align with your growth goals. We strive to continue to grow our portfolio by adding new manufacturing partners and working with partners that invest in the future.

PROUD PARTNERS WITH





Since the last Councilors Newsletter article, the Vinyl Division had a Vinyltec® in Akron Ohio on October 10 to 12, 2023. It was a very successful event with excellent papers on vinyl technology. The primer before the conference was excellent and well attended. The next Vinyltec will be in Chicago. Watch for announcements regarding this conference. It will be at the Marriott O'Hare in October 2024.

The SPE Council held the election of officers for the International SPE last Fall. The following were elected for the 2024 term:

- Scott Eastman won the election for President Elect.

The following won the election for Directors:

- Dr. Mubashir Ansari
- Dr. Margret Sobkowicz Kline
- James Waddell

The term for these newly elected officers has started on January 1, 2024. In addition to those elected, three or four directors will be appointed. We will see who these additions to the SPE Board of Directors will be at the next Council meeting at the ANTEC® in St. Louis.

In addition to the election, the Board made changes to the rules. This information is available on the website.

2024 ANTEC® will be in St. Louis on March 5 to 7 at the Marriott Grand Hotel. There will be a council meeting and a leadership meeting on the first day of the conference. I will attend the council meeting and I will be representing the Vinyl Plastics Division.

As I am from Chicago there will be a symposium to celebrate Glenn Beall where Beall has been active. Glenn has been a member of the SPE since 1960 and he has been active in many roles for the SPE since then. Please come to the ANTEC® to help us celebrate.

Comments? Please let me know.

Bill Arendt

William Arendt

Honored Fellow of the Society,
Vinyl Division Councilor

Member in the News

Congratulations to Peter Frenkel for his contributions and official recognition in being named as a SPE Fellow!



The Fellow of Society program honors SPE members for their outstanding contributions in the field of plastics engineering, science/technology, or in the management of such activities.

Left to right:

Pat Evans, Cindy De Jager, Peter Frenkel, Stu Parks, Danielle Macoretta, Phil Cascais, (Galata Chemicals)

Membership Report

As of January 13, 2024 the SPE Vinyl Division was comprised of 352 members.

A special welcome to the following new members!
July 20, 2023 - January 13, 2024

Join Date	Name	Company Affiliation	Member Status
6/27/2023	Hugo Villa	Y-TEX Corporation	Professional
7/20/2023	Gopinath Ramamoorthy	Cornerstone Building Brands	Professional
8/03/2023	B. Kishan		Student
8/14/2023	Jaya Chandra Hari Mangalara	Cargill	Professional
8/15/2023	Steven Connelly	Norac Additives	Professional
9/07/2023	Mangesh Champhekar	Carlisle Construction Materials	Professional
9/11/2023	Harish Radhakrishnan	Iowa State University	Student
9/12/2023	Tim To	OxyChem	Professional
9/13/2023	Steven Landin	Thermoacis LLC	Professional
9/19/2023	Juliana Montoya	Plastics Engineering Magazine	Professional
9/20/2023	Dustin King	Mississippi Polymers, Inc.	Young Professional
9/22/2023	Asya Tucker	CorningYoung	Professional
10/04/2023	Pawel Bozek	Stradomint	Professional
10/05/2023	Craig Shoemaker	GEON Performance Solutions	Professional
10/05/2023	Farivash Gholamirad	Carlisle Construction Materials	Professional
10/05/2023	Michael Komara	GEON Performance Solutions	Professional
10/09/2023	Amanda Peak	Peak Analytics	Young Professional
10/18/2023	Wes Parson	CMI	Professional
11/02/2023	Michael Smith	CMI	Professional
11/06/2023	Dick Peerless	Federal University of Technology	Student
11/27/2023	Shoreh Parandoosh	Videotron	Professional
01/04/2024	John Hensler	Westlake Corporation	Professional
01/12/2024	Darby Grech	Canadian General-Tower Ltd	Professional
01/13/2024	Somtochukwu Okonkwo	University of Houston	Student

Emily McBride
Emily McBride

Membership Chair, Vinyl Plastics Division



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Shandong Ruifeng Chemical

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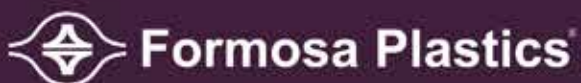
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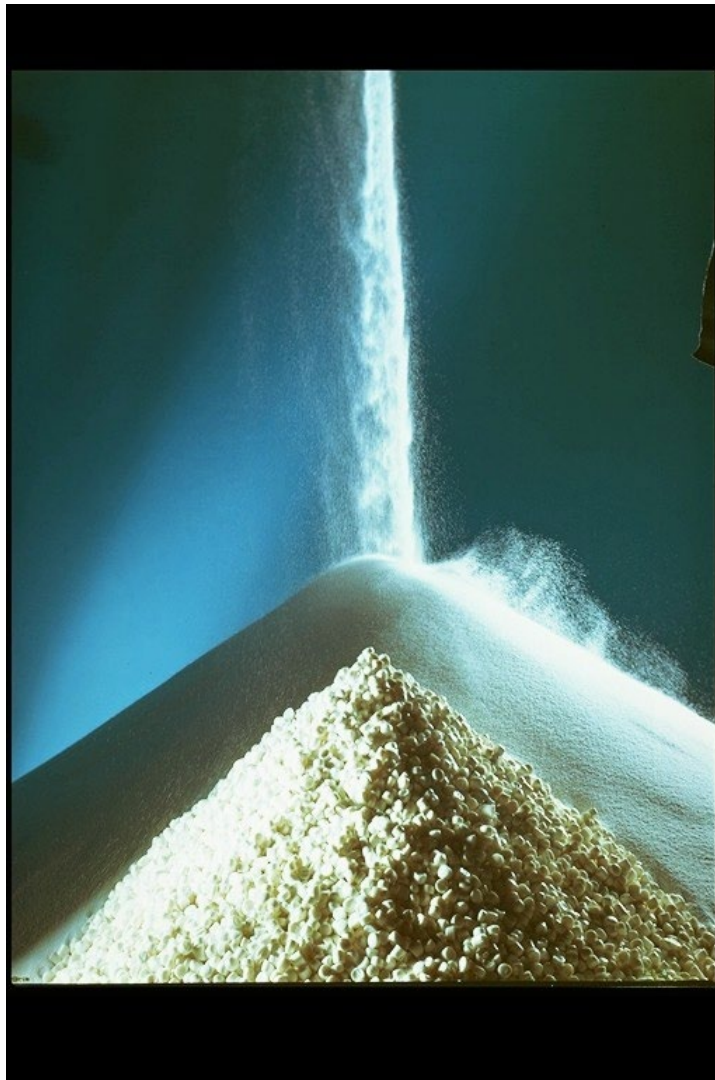
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Vinyl Division

Society of Plastics Engineers
100 Reserve Road, Suite B310
Danbury, CT 06810

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2022-2025
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2023-2026
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Beth Griffin
Zachary Hoffman
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ANTEC® 2024

When: March 4-7, 2024

Where: St. Louis, MO,

Topics such as Recycling and AI in Polymer Processing to Injection Molding, Circular Economy, Sustainable Transportation...Plenary speakers will explore machine learning, innovative polymer design, and sustainable growth. Early rates and the ANTEC® All-Access VIP Experience opportunity ends on Jan. 31! Don't wait.

Register Today!

Vinyltec® 2024

When: Tuesday, October 22, 2024 8:00 AM

CDT - Thursday, October 24, 2024 5:00 AM

Where: Marriott Chicago O'Hare, Chicago, IL



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