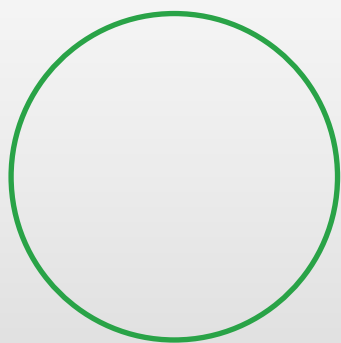




NORTHWESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA

*Since 1945*

# Fall 2020 Newsletter



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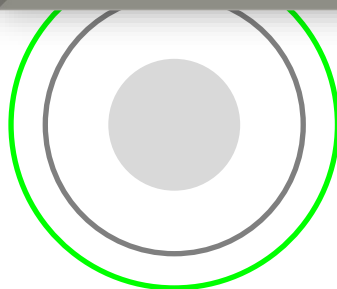
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# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

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As time goes on, we continue to think the end of the COVID-19 pandemic is just around the corner. But of course, it isn't. Is it any wonder that the cover photo of our newsletter is not of an SPE meeting, but rather of the lovely fall foliage I saw on a solo walk where I could escape—sans mask.

After cancelling virtually all of our spring and summer events, as well as our golf outing, we are no further along in scheduling a flash social or technical speaker than we were in April. So frustrating! Once we decide that we can go ahead with an event (and by 'we' I really mean us, the CDC, the Governor, the Brewpub and the membership) we will be more than happy to buy you your first beer there. We've also got some great plant tours lined up and waiting for us. Both MoxieTec (Grove City) and The Shell facility (Mercer) are on our short list, and both are in locations that make it easy for us to invite the Pittsburgh Chapter to join us. Watch for that to come.

As an SPE member you know that there are benefits available from National—like the free webinars they offer every month. There have been some good ones over the past few months including Part Failure Analysis, Additive Manufacturing and Sustainability. And if you read pages six and seven of this newsletter you will find one of the great benefits of joining our NWPA SPE section — the free scholarships we offer. Don't let your eligible high school senior put off applying for one today.

If you are on LinkedIn, you might have seen a piece by Romain Cazenave, a Marketing Director at Dow Chemical. Lately there has been a lot of negative plastics exposure in regards to beaches flooded with debris, animals caught in plastic trash and mega-statistics about the size and amount of a floating island of waste in the ocean. So, when Romain's friends saw the images they asked him how he could sleep at night; that this waste was unacceptable. We all know it doesn't belong in the environment, and it didn't get there itself, but it is our product and it is visible and if we are not already on the front-lines of helping clean it up, we should be. Romain's reply was that "only by questioning (what we do), by demanding better solutions and working with others to take action, will we be able to make the most of the benefits of plastic without harming the environment". Plastic has some fantastic benefits. Life saving benefits. Plastic waste is something that requires everyone to work on it. If you continue to read on the next page you can see what is planned for locally addressing the plastic waste stream.

*Lucy Lenhardt*  
*NWPA SPE President 20-21*

***"I work in Plastics—so how do I sleep at night?" Romain Cazenave, DOW***

# LOCAL PLASTICS IN THE NEWS



The Plastek Group, along with Erie Insurance, is investing with a startup recycling com-



pany to build a plastic waste sorting plant located in the Erie area. Erie Insurance is also listed as an investor in the startup International Recycling Group. Building the plant will come after they complete the expected 100 million dollar fundraising. The plant will initially focus on the three big recycled plastics: PET,

PE & PP before venturing into any others. It is expected to be 'highly automated' and will clean and sort on a massive scale, but will leave the pelletizing to others.



Plastikos was named one of the *Top Shops* in Plastics Technology's Top Shop Survey this month. The 23 top companies were noted for being effective, effi-



cient and "accomplishing more than their peers from a smaller manufacturing footprint". Congratulations on this achievement; that is a small group in this large industry.



F&S Tool is partnering with new investors NewHold Enterprises and Tecum Capital Partners. The Faulkner brothers' 90,000 square foot plant has had many recent upgrades and the expectation is that there will be more.

With a goal to 'solve custom problems' they expect this new partnership to support growth.

Munot Plastics, a local thermoformer, produced standard face masks for the Covid-19 pandemic. They also worked with local doctors to create an improved facemask that has tabs on the bottom to better enclose the 'cough zone'. Nice work.



# POSTPONED EVENTS



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## Plant Tours



Flash  
Social

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Title	Name	Company	Email
President	Lucy Lenhardt	Penn State Erie	lad115@psu.edu
Past President	Annie Gohn	Penn State Erie	amm6125@psu.edu
Treasurer	Jenn Schmidt	Beaumont Technologies	Jschmidt@beaumontinc.com
Councilor	Brian Young	Penn State Erie	bay101@psu.edu
Secretary	Michelle Hartmann	Penn State Erie	maw179@psu.edu
Golf Outing Chair	Don McMillen	Engineered Plastics Inc.	dm@engineeredplastics.com
Social Networking Chair	Lynzie Nebel	Tech Tank	lrcollard@gmail.com
Special Events Chair	Lynzie Nebel	Tech Tank	lrcollard@gmail.com
Student Representative	Nick Enos	Penn State Erie	nre5062@psu.edu
Technical Program Chair	Lynzie Nebel	Tech Tank	lrcollard@gmail.com
Membership Chair	Brian Young	Penn State Erie	bay101@psu.edu
Newsletter Chair	Annie Gohn	Penn State Erie	amm6125@psu.edu
Advertising Chair	Michelle Hartman	Penn State Erie	maw179@psu.edu
Member	Richard Deeter	Deeter Tool (R)	deeter2@verizon.net
Member	Kathi Gillespie	Plastek Group Industries	Kathi_gillespie@plastekgroup.com
Member	Bruce Buchman	Allegheny Machinery Group	bbuchman36@gmail.com
Member	Danielle Bentley	Plastikos	dlw5209@gmail.com
Member	Mike Misco	Shell	Michael.Misco@shell.com
Member	Jeremy Weigand	MoxieTec	JWeigand@moxietec.com
Member	Bob Ellwell	ProCad Technologies	Bob@pro_cadtech.com
Member	Elliot Carnevale	Shell	Elliot.Carnevale@shell.com



# NWPA SPE Sponsorship



“Thank You!” to our Gold Sponsor

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**PennState**  
Behrend

Plastics Training Academy

## Newsletter and Website Advertising Information

### BRONZE SPONSOR

Newsletter:

1/4 Page Color Ad  
3-7/8" x 4-3/4"

Webpage:

Logo on Sponsor Page

Rotating Ad

\$250

### SILVER SPONSOR

Newsletter:

1/2 Page Color Ad  
7-3/4 x 4-3/4"

Webpage:

Logo on Sponsor Page

Rotating Ad

\$500

### GOLD SPONSOR

Newsletter:

Full Page Color Ad  
7-3/4" x 10-1/4"

Webpage:

Logo on Home Page

Full Banner Ad

\$1,000

### Advertising Guidelines

- Advertising pricing includes promotions for 1 full calendar year.
- The NWPA SPE Newsletter will be developed twice per year.
- Limited print copies will be available at SPE Events. Digital copies will be posted on the section website.
- Acceptable file formats include PDF (*preferred*), .tif, and JPG. Files must be at least 300 dpi resolution.

Contact Michelle Hartman at [maw179@psu.edu](mailto:maw179@psu.edu) for more information

# \$SCHOLARSHIP\$

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## Member Scholarship

The Northwestern Pennsylvania Section of SPE is pleased to offer the 2021 NWPASPE **MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP**. This scholarship is intended to reward outstanding high school students with a one-time monetary donation up to \$1000 to be used to further their education. This Award is available only to NWPASPE members with children or grandchildren who are currently high school seniors. If you, or a local SPE member you know, has a high school senior who is planning to attend college, technical school or a trade school in the fall we encourage you to apply. The student may be *planning to study in any field, plastics or otherwise*, and the funds will be sent to the school of choice. NWPASPE member benefits are many and varied, so we are glad to offer this opportunity to our members. One Member scholarship will be awarded for 2021-22 and E-membership is not valid for this award. Application deadline is June 1, 2021. Applications are available on-line at [www.nwpa.4spe.org](http://www.nwpa.4spe.org).

## Section Scholarship

NWPASPE is pleased to announce the NWPASPE **SECTION SCHOLARSHIP**. We started offering this scholarship as a way to recognize high school students from our three county service areas who plan to attend college. This scholarship is intended for current high school seniors planning to study plastics or polymers at any accredited 4-year college. Any high school, charter school or home school senior *from our region of Erie, Crawford and Warren Counties* entering any plastics related field of study at an accredited 4-year school is eligible. This scholarship is \$500 and we plan to award one in each of our three county service areas of Erie, Crawford and Warren County, PA.

We all know that plastics are ubiquitous and there are many fields of study related to plastics. If your senior plans to attend college and can explain how they are planning for a career in plastics then they should apply for this scholarship. They do not need to be an SPE member, just plan for a career in plastics. Students may apply for both scholarships, but may only receive one for 21-22.

Application deadline is June 1, 2021. Applications are available on-line at [www.nwpa.4spe.org](http://www.nwpa.4spe.org).

# SPE ANTEC '21 March 21-25, 2021



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**ANTEC '21 IS ON!** *As a HYBRID platform, featuring both on-site*

*and on-line programming, but will not be in conjunction with NPE. As of October 9: 2-1/2 days of live meetings in Denver, Colorado\* followed by several weeks of technical presentations delivered virtually for you to watch from your location, either in real-time or at your convenience on-demand. \*Live meetings subject to change based on CDC guidelines.*

Contact: Sue Wojnicki, [swojnicki@4spe.org](mailto:swojnicki@4spe.org), 203.740.5420.

SPE-Inspiring Plastics Professionals announced that its ANTEC® 2021 program will take place on March 21-25 at the Sheraton Denver Downtown in Denver, Colorado.

Denver is one of the most vibrant and popular meeting destinations in the country, with its 300 annual days of sunshine, a thriving cultural scene, diverse neighborhoods and urban adventure. Denver International Airport (DEN) is the sixth busiest airport in the U.S. and offers more than 1,400 daily flights to nearly 180 destinations worldwide. Direct rail service from DEN to Denver Union Station is now available, offering visitors a fast, affordable way to get to the heart of downtown.

“Our ANTEC® attendees appreciate a host city with a lot to offer. After a full day of learning, people will enjoy Denver’s many choices of places to socialize, explore and relax,” said Patrick Farrey, SPE’s CEO.

This decision also means that ANTEC®, which had been successfully co-located every three years since 2009 with PLASTIC’s NPE Show, will revert to being a separate event. “Both of those events have outgrown the co-location, and each needs more space to continue their growth,” says Farrey. “Bill Carteaux and I discussed this immediately after ANTEC/NPE last May, and we both agreed this was the right path forward. The announcement was withheld only until the location of ANTEC® 2021 was finalized.”

“SPE is committed to continuing our long-standing collaboration with PLASTICS on matters of mutual interest – including with programs for workforce development, student membership and environmental impact,” says Brian Landes, SPE President. “We look forward to SPE’s participation in NPE 2021 as an exhibitor and association supporter.”

The ANTEC® conference consists largely of original, peer-reviewed technical presentations and sessions given by expert representatives from the largest industry segments. These sessions are focused on the latest trends in the plastics industry and the biggest questions being asked in the plastics community today. There is also a trade show, Industry Awards Ceremony and numerous networking events during the ANTEC® week.

# STUDENT SECTION

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Nick Enos, Student Chapter Representative

This semester has certainly been the most unique that both students and professors have experienced, but we're all making the most of it! Thinking back to last semester and throughout the summer, many of us were unsure what this coming semester would look like and if there'd be any in person classes at all. Going fully remote last Spring on such short notice in the Spring was a challenge, but that experience prepared many of us for the current situation.

To say that classes have been running more smoothly than expected this semester is an understatement. While it's obviously not the most ideal, enormous effort is being made to make sure students are still getting the same education, and it shows. Many lectures are still online, but now that we all have more experience with this format, it is much smoother and more effective than before. Study groups and group projects are also still possible with the use of technology. I believe the biggest benefit this semester has over the last is that most labs are still being conducted in person, and students are still able to get the same hands-on experience with machines and equipment. Even though everyone has to deal with goggles fogging up from the masks from time to time, we are all still able to make the same progress with research and lab work that's expected. Hopefully as this semester comes to a close and we move into the Spring semester, things continue to improve even more!



48

The current number of students in the  
Penn State Behrend Student Chapter of  
The Society of Plastics Engineers



# Plastics at PENN STATE BEHREND



Luke McNamara, Tesla Co-Op, 2020

*full time work/on leave from school*

Over the summer I worked at Tesla in the Bay Area in California for a co-op. COVID-19 had a very large impact on this experience especially since California was considered a hot spot for the pandemic. In mid-March, my team moved from working in the office to completely online which is how the work stayed until the end of my co-op in August. I was allowed to visit suppliers in person, but the rest of the work stayed online. With many events being cancelled this summer, I mainly kept myself entertained with a lot of outdoor activities.

When I came back to school this fall, it was a bit of a shock because I did not have any experience doing my courses online. Working remotely on co-op helped with using things like Zoom, but it was not the same experience as doing course work. We are about 7 weeks into the semester, and I am beginning to get used to the new way of taking classes. It took a little bit to get used to but I am starting to get comfortable with it now.



TESLA

## Senior Projects

Here are some of the current plastics senior projects being completed at Behrend:

Designing an Aluminum Alloy Derailleur Hanger for a Plastic Alternative

*Alesha Schonthal, Jonathan Kowalkowski, Alec Oxbrough*

Validate Tungsten Carbide Core Pins Mechanically versus Steel Core Pins for Marketing Purposes

*Autumn Mozik, Dalton Singer*

Moisture Absorption in PA66

*Kendra Kline, Thomas Ward*

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If your company has a back-burner idea they've been kicking around, and may be interested in sponsoring a senior project at Behrend to investigate it, they can find more information on-line at:

<https://behrend.psu.edu/school-of-engineering/resources-for/business-industry>

# CALL FOR BOARD OF DIRECTOR MEMBERS



NWPA SPE welcomes all members with an interest in helping guide the Section to join us at any Board meeting. Come see the process behind the planning and see how you can take an active role in the leadership of our local chapter.

The Board of Directors is comprised of four executive officers and a number of chair positions as well as several general members. They are charged with the oversight and direction of the NWPA SPE Section12. A brief description of the positions is listed below.

Executive Positions: President; Vice President (Chair-Elect); Past President; Treasurer – financial director

Councilor – liaison between NWPA SPE Section12 and National SPE, attend Council meetings & report.

Secretary – records Section’s meeting minutes, verifies all voting, and issues statements from both the executive board and the Board of Directors.

Golf Outing Chair – directs aspects of the Section’s annual golf outing.

Social Networking Chair – responsible for the social communications of the Section.

Special Events Chair – responsible for all aspects of special events held by the Section.

Technical Program Chair – establish and suggest a list of possible programs for the year.

Membership Chair – responsible for communication with members, maintaining membership roster and working to advance membership and benefits.

Advertising Chair – establish, recruit and place advertising.

General Board Member/Director – this general member is the perfect starting point for someone who wants to be more involved with the Chapter but might have concerns about leading a committee. General members provide input to specific committees and/or to the Board as a whole. Attend BOD meetings.

Committee work is addressed outside the Board meetings and the amount of work associated with each committee varies greatly. There are usually five Board meetings annually, with each committee reporting back, so you can expect a time commitment of attendance at those meetings, in addition to any committee work, if you choose. We need our members to help us lead this Section.

**NWPA SPE is a volunteer organization and cannot fully function without the input of its membership. Please consider nominating a member, or yourself, to join the Board and accepting a nomination made for you. Email Lucy at [lad115@psu.edu](mailto:lad115@psu.edu) if you can join us in the leadership of this section.**

***We need our members!***