

# FALL 2024 Newsletter

*Up Next....*

*Come see Mark Zadrozny give us some insight to the wild world of color*

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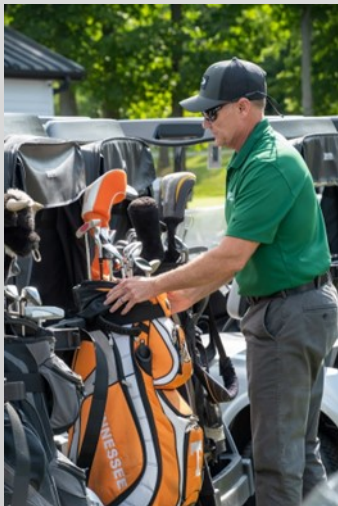
*Mark Zadrozny of Penn Color will be presenting on Thursday OCT 24, 2024*

*Details on Page 6.*



**NORTHWESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA**  
*Since 1945*

# 2024 GOLF OUTING



## MEMBERSHIP

Our current membership consists of

6 Emeritus members

85 Professional members

67 Young Professional members

6 Premier members

30 Student Chapter members





# NWPA SPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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If you are interested in joining the leadership of the NWPA SPE, please contact any one of the board members listed here.

# STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

*Brian Young, Faculty Advisor*

## International Trip

Sixteen Plastics Engineering Technology and Polymer Engineering and Science students along with two faculty members attended the international trip. They departed October 17, 2024 and toured Germany and Switzerland, attending the Fakuma show in Friedrichshafen, Germany.



## Niagara Bottling Trip

On October 4, 2024, seventeen students and four faculty/staff members traveled to the Niagara Bottling plant. The Pittsburgh bottling plant is one of 51 plants owned by Niagara and is one of their smaller plants only having two bottling lines. Even with only two lines, the plant produces five million bottles of water daily on average. The plant is heavily automated, having only 71 employees. The only time a plastic part or a water bottle is touched by a human hand, is in the rare instance that it falls over while being conveyed to the location where it is shrink wrapped into a case. Stock is automatically moved, and trucks are automatically loaded by laser-guided vehicles.

Man of the pieces of equipment were moving so fast, it was hard to follow with the human eye, high speed cameras need to be used to see what is happening.





# STUDENT CHAPTER NEWS

## *Penn State Behrend*

### Open House

On Saturday October 12, 2024, at Penn State Behrend's open house, many of the student club members helped out by talking to students, giving tours, and demonstrating their plastics lab recycling program. The students and parents on the tours were very impressed with the students' attention to sustainability issues. Hopefully, some of those students who toured will be joining the program. There were a couple of alumni who brought their students in for tours.

### ABET

Kaitlyn Ezzone

The Plastics Engineering Technology program passed its ABET accreditation visit which occurred 10/13-15/2024. Only a minor concern was found, and it has been addressed. The next visit is in six years.

The Polymer Engineering and Science program passed its initial ABET accreditation visit with only minor concerns being cited. The next visit for the PES program will be in two years to put it on the same cycle as the other engineering programs at Penn State Behrend.

### NWPA SPE GOLF OUTING

Penn State Behrend students Kaitlyn Ezzone and Mike Carrarini volunteered at the 2024 NWPA SPE Golf outing on August 8th. With their help, SPE raised money for student scholarships.





# Technical Presentation

**Thursday October 24, 2024 at The Brewerie at Union Station**

**123 West 14th Street Erie Pa**

**5.30 pm Social**

**6.00 pm Dinner**

**Speaker to Follow**

**COLOR101: It's not as simple as  
you think.**



**Mark Zadrozny, Technical Service Manager at Penn Color**

Mark will discuss:

- How color is perceived
- How a Masterbatch is made
- How pigments can affect mechanicals, reactions that can occur with other additives...and more



An early graduate of the Penn State Erie Plastics Engineering Technology Program, Mark has an extensive background in the plastics industry from Tooling to Sales to Technical Service. He is proficient in working with customers to solve their issues within the plastics industry.

Mark is also the part owner of Protective Utility Gear (pugoutdoors.com) producing products for the firearms industry.

**RSVP by Thursday OCT 17 to Michelle Hartman via email—[maw179@psu.edu](mailto:maw179@psu.edu)**

**NWPA SPE Members @ \$20**

**Non-Section Members @ \$30**

**Student Chapter and Emeritus members @ \$10**



# NWPA SPE = RESEARCH



NORTHWESTERN  
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## RESEARCH FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR NWPA MEMBERS

NWPA SPE is offering our membership the opportunity to access student research at no cost. Behrend Senior Research Projects are designed to give upper-class students 12-18 months to research a topic of interest to your company. The timeline typically includes a 3-semester progression where students will perform a literature review relevant to their project topic, perform design and testing, and compile a final report. The students interface with project sponsors at whatever level is required, generally via regular meetings. Sponsoring a senior design project is a low-cost and low risk way to investigate those back-burner projects you never seem to have the time or resources to get done.

NWPA SPE will fund up to three research projects for our members to work with Plastics Engineering Technology students at Penn State Behrend. Projects can be in any plastics related area such as materials, processing, design, compounding, product development and more.

All submissions must be submitted by a member of the NWPA Section of SPE who is going to act as the primary contact. Project Sponsors are responsible for providing detailed instruction on expectations and deliverables and provide regular feedback and guidance to their student group. Senior project applications normally have a fee assessed with them. However, for the three winning SPE member projects, NWPA SPE will pay the application fee. NWPA SPE will not cover the NDA fee for sponsored projects.

To apply, submit a brief outline/proposal of your project idea to [nwpa.spe@gmail.com](mailto:nwpa.spe@gmail.com), along with your contact information. You may be contacted to discuss the merits of your project idea. Project submissions are taken on a rolling cycle, so they will be reviewed as soon as they are submitted, and will no longer be accepted after August 4, 2023 or once three have been accepted and approved by the school.

If your project is accepted, you will be notified and responsible for completing a formal application through the school website. Projects can plan to start in January 2025 with expected completion in 2027.



*Student Chapter SPE* ↔ *NWPA SPE*

*Connect your research ideas now!*





## 2024 Golf Outing Report

It was a beautiful day at Whispering Woods for the annual golf outing.

We had 118 golfers. All the finishing prizes were donated back, in addition to the 50/50 money and some of the hole prizes. Donation receipts (\$1430) were sent to those generous golfers. Overall, we had a profit of \$15000! These very important funds will be used for operating costs including subsidizing student and member dinners at meetings, hosting food at our networking socials and start-up funds for the next golf outing. In addition, we support members research opportunities with Penn State, mini-grants for plastics education—including the PlastiVan— plus many student scholarships. Additionally, this year we are donating to the Mike Sepe Scholarship at National SPE as well as establishing a NWPA SPE Section Scholarship there. Thank you to our Golfers!



**SEE THE GOLF OUTING PHOTOS HERE:**

[https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMMBsfbWenrTnE4qXrV1VHsBiO6cfsfUJliRHmqHtQ4Ck8LqrwV\\_rkScOGptfQu-w?key=UGIfOU5yLXBPckJvSIJ1bndnWmJkc0xab0VjUjJn](https://photos.google.com/share/AF1QipMMBsfbWenrTnE4qXrV1VHsBiO6cfsfUJliRHmqHtQ4Ck8LqrwV_rkScOGptfQu-w?key=UGIfOU5yLXBPckJvSIJ1bndnWmJkc0xab0VjUjJn)

# *Save the Date!*

## **2025 NWPA SPE GOLF OUTING**

**Thursday August 14, 2025**

**Whispering Woods Golf Club**

**Register @ 10am, Golf @ 11am**

**18 Holes with Cart, Gifts, Raffles, Grilled Lunch, Steak Dinner,  
Refreshments, Contests and Prizes**

*Registration opens June 9*





## Thank You Golf Outing Sponsors

### BEER, LUNCH & SOFT DRINKS SPONSORS

*GeorgeKo Industries—Beer*

*Port Erie Plastics—Lunch*

*Allegheny Machinery—Pop/Water*

### MAJOR SPONSORS

*Beaumont—PING Bag*

*Conventus—Putting Contest*

*DIE - SEP HOLE-IN-ONE*

*ICT Molding Placards*

*Plastek Group Major Sponsor*

*Shell Chemical—YETI*

### HOLE-GIFT SPONSORS:

*Absolute Haitian*

*Accudyn Products*

*Advantage Engineering*

*Allegheny Machinery*

*Ameripac Industries*

*Ascend*

*Autodesk*

*Beaumont*

*Chase Plastics*

*Conventus*

*DME*

*Dri-Air*

*Engineered Plastics*

*Engineered Plastic Recycling*

*Entec Polymers*

*Genesis Polymers*

*GeorgeKo Industries*

*ICT Molding Solutions*

*M Holland*

*Milacron*

*Moretto*

*Nexeo Plastics*

*Penn Color*

*Plastek Group*

*Plastikos/MicroMold*

*Plenco*

*Port Erie Plastics*

*Polymer System Solutions*

*Prism Plastics*

*PSN Labs*

*Rapid Granulator*

*Reiloy USA*

*Rinco*

*RheTech*

*RTP Company*

*Samtec*

*Shell Chemical*

*Smartflow*

*Standard Insert*

*Standridge Color*

*Sumitomo Demag*

*TechTank*

*Thank you to all those who sponsored gifts at the last minute and we did not have time to get you on the list. We do appreciate all your support!!*



# STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Merek Jaworski received the NWPA SPE SECTION SCHOLARSHIP. Merek just graduated from Fort LeBoeuf High School and will be attending Penn State Behrend with a major in Plastics Engineering Technology this fall. I've been a cashier at Tops for 2 years and an intern for Beaumont Technologies since June 2024, returning after working July-August 2023. Typically, I'm stationed in the engineering department making MeltFlippers, MoldFlow simulations, and reports for simulations. The building also houses classes on injection molding and plastics with the American Injection Molding Institute or AIM. This year, I took a very helpful 2-day course on part design and I'd definitely like to take more. I'm also planning on moving around the building for experience with processing and material characterization. Outside of school and work, I enjoy cooking and baking, walks, and thrifting.

NWPA SPE President Bruce Buchman awards the 2024 MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP to Jacob Lenhardt at the golf outing. Jacob is currently attending Penn State Behrend studying Business and Biology, and made the Dean's list this semester. He works for Games Workshop in Erie and enjoys traveling with friends. Jacob's mother, Lucy Lenhardt, has been a member of NWPA SPE since she was a student at Behrend.



Carter Swanson received the NWPA SPE SECTION SCHOLARSHIP. Hello, my name is Carter Swanson. As a student athlete at McDowell High School, I dedicated a majority of my time to athletics and academics. I played varsity baseball and soccer and excelled academically as well. My favorite subjects are physics and math. I will be attending Ohio Northern University in the fall of 2024 to continue my baseball career and study engineering.