

# Polymer Valley News



The Newsletter of the Akron Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers  
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## Membership Report

The Akron Section currently has 171 members.

***We are always welcoming new members – invite someone to a meeting!***

## SPE National

Please click the following areas of interest:

## Board Meeting Dates

Aug 28	Jan 8
Sept None	Feb 5
Oct 2	March 4
Nov 6	April 1
Dec 4	May 6

[Contacts at National](#)

[Member Benefits](#)

[Join SPE](#)

[Akron Section](#)



## Advertiser Index

Akrochem	8
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*Picture your ad here .....  
And also on [www.akronspe.org](http://www.akronspe.org)*

**The Akron Section is in  
need of New Board Members.**

**Please consider becoming a  
Board Member  
to help support your Section.**

**Contact anyone currently  
on the board  
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– see page 19 for the order form*

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Ben Woeste, Midwest Regional Sales Manager

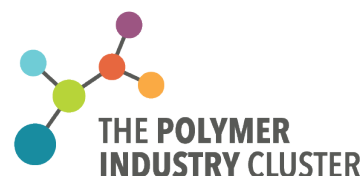
Phone: 330-284-1417

Email: [bwoeste@doverchem.com](mailto:bwoeste@doverchem.com)

**The Akron SPE Section is  
happy to post local job  
openings in the plastics  
industry for 90 days for any  
member.**

**Please contact a board  
member if you are  
interested in posting.**

**For current postings, visit  
[http://www.akronspe.org/job-  
posting](http://www.akronspe.org/job-posting)**



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 24, 2023

## For more information, contact:

Halee Gerenday  
Senior Manager, Marketing and Communications  
Greater Akron Chamber  
office: 330-237-1216  
[hgerenday@greaterakronchamber.org](mailto:hgerenday@greaterakronchamber.org)

## Greater Akron Chamber Announces EDA Tech Hub Award for Sustainable Polymers

**Akron, OH** – On behalf of the Polymer Industry Cluster, the Greater Akron Chamber is excited to announce the designation of Greater Akron as a Tech Hub for Sustainable Polymers and as a recipient of a Strategy Development Grant by the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) – the only awardee of a hub designation or strategy development award in the State of Ohio. This designation is a strong endorsement of the region’s plan to supercharge a critical technology ecosystem and become a global leader over the next decade.

Out of nearly 400 total applicants nationwide, 31 received a Tech Hub Designation, and 29 received a strategy development grant. The Greater Akron Chamber’s (GAC) application was one of only 11 to receive both, which advantageously positions GAC’s [Polymer Industry Cluster](#) for a potential Phase 2 grant award of between \$40-\$75 million.

“Over the last several years, the Polymer Industry Cluster, powered by the Greater Akron Chamber, has been working closely with our polymer companies, industry stakeholders, research institutions and economic development partners to double down on our region’s legacy in polymers to create a new future for advanced polymer materials that are both functional and sustainable,” said Steve Millard, President and CEO of the Greater Akron Chamber. “Greater Akron’s Designation as a Tech Hub and awardee of the Strategic Development Grant will accelerate our efforts to advance our work, invest in our region’s future, and build on Ohio’s rich history in the polymer sector. We are excited to be a part of the opportunity of solving tomorrow’s problems from a foundation of scientific and manufacturing leadership that goes back 125 years.”

“This is a community with a rich history of partnership and collaboration for economic development, workforce creation and innovation. Our designation as a Tech Hub and the awarding of a development grant both affirms this great history and ensures our continuation as a national leader in polymer and advanced materials research, education, training and technology innovation. The University of Akron, which is ranked #1 in the world for polymer science and plastics engineering, is excited to continue this work with our partners,” said Dr. Gary Miller, President of The University of Akron.

The EDA designated 31 communities across the country as Regional Innovation and Technology Hubs (Tech Hubs) through the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration. These Tech Hubs will catalyze investment in technologies critical to economic growth, national security, and job creation, and will help communities across the country become centers of innovation critical to American competitiveness.

The Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub will focus on innovation to address the severe climate and environmental impacts resulting from the use of fossil fuel-derived polymers (rubbers and plastics) through accelerating sustainable polymer manufacturing and commercialization in the United States. Polymers have played an important role in American innovation

ranging from the development of medical devices to our nation's infrastructure; however, their production has resulted in challenges like greenhouse gas emissions and plastic pollution. Our Tech Hub is seeking to leverage its regional assets – such as the largest concentration of plastics and rubber manufacturing plants, machines, and materials in North America – as well as regional partnerships in research and development and an inclusive regional workforce, to establish global leadership in sustainable plastic and rubber technology that has reduced emissions and is recyclable, biodegradable, and non-toxic.

As the only awardee in the State of Ohio, the Polymer Industry Cluster and GAC recognizes its success relies on the ongoing engagement of its partners throughout the region and the state to focus federal and state investment to result in innovation, commercialization opportunities, and high-quality jobs for Ohioans. GAC is fortunate to have the ongoing support of its partners on this effort and looks forward to working with polymer industry leaders, elected officials and other economic development stakeholders on helping Ohio secure a Phase 2 investment.

Planning and strategy development will ensue over the next several months and a competitive Phase 2 application process will begin in 2024. [Click here](#) for more information on the U.S. EDA's Tech Hubs program.

### From Our Stakeholders

“With our rich manufacturing history, Ohio is a natural fit to host a regional technology hub. As the historic rubber capital of the world, Akron is the ideal location for the future of sustainable polymers, to produce the domestic rubber and plastics of the 21st century. This investment will ensure that Ohio will lead in the technologies of the future, with Akron at the center of sustainable materials innovation,” said **U.S. Senator Sherrod Brown**.

“Ohio's 13th Congressional District has long been a trailblazer in polymer science and polymer engineering. I'm thrilled to see the Biden-Harris Administration make this historic \$400,000 investment in the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub as their research continues to establish worldwide leadership in this space,” said **U.S. Rep. Emilia Sykes (OH-13)**. “As a member of the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I am uniquely familiar with the multi-disciplinary and far-reaching value the efforts of this funding and designation will bring not only to Akron and Northeast Ohio, but to our nation. The Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub, under the leadership of the Greater Akron Chamber, will have a significant impact on our community's ability to lead in sustainability, manufacturing, and commercialization. This is just another example of the CHIPS and Science Act delivering for Ohio's 13th Congressional District.”

“For over a century, Akron has been a driving force in transforming some of our nation's most important industries,” said **Ohio Governor Mike DeWine**. “Being selected as a 'Tech Hub' is a testament to the hard work of the Greater Akron Chamber. This designation is a great example of how Ohio will continue to be at the heart of innovation for years to come.”

“I want to commend the Greater Akron Chamber for putting together a winning proposal,” said **Ohio Lt. Governor Jon Husted**. “This is a great opportunity for the team to leverage these federal dollars with state dollars for innovative polymer research and development happening right here in Ohio so that jobs can be created for Ohioans living in the region.”

“I am particularly pleased to see President Biden choose to make such landmark strategic investments in Akron” said **State Senator Vernon Sykes (28<sup>th</sup> District)**. “Recognizing our long history with and immense potential for innovation in polymer and material manufacturing, Akron will take its place as the national leader in this industry and tackle great challenges like sustainability, environmental impacts, and climate change. I look forward to seeing the innovations that will arise from the Tech Hub designation and working to leverage state resources to further support our region.”

“Akron Ohio has become known as the Polymer Valley of the World. This federal funding will help to sustain us to tell our story and grow our reach,” said **State Representative Tavia Galonski (33<sup>rd</sup> District)**.

“Akron's designation as one of the 31 technology hubs is a huge accomplishment for the area. Coupled with Innovation Hub funding in Ohio's Operating Budget, Akron will become the hub for sustainable polymer strategy development. I am confident

that industry-changing advancements will be made to help our state and nation,” said **State Representative Bill Roemer (31<sup>st</sup> District)**.

“I’m thrilled by today’s announcement and congratulate the Greater Akron Chamber and its partners for the years of work and collaboration that went into making today possible. This further solidifies our position as a global leader in sustainable polymer production, and positions us well for significant future CHIPS funding,” said **State Representative Casey Weinstein (34<sup>th</sup> District)**.

“Collaboration with community partners continues to put Summit County in the best position to succeed. This award will help us showcase what this region and our polymer industry have to offer,” said **Summit County Executive Ilene Shapiro**.

“Akron is at the cutting edge of polymer research and innovation,” said **Akron Mayor Dan Horrigan**. “Our city has a long history in the polymer industry and we are proud of this new designation as a regional tech hub. ... I look forward to the work ahead here in Akron.”

“Bridgestone is committed to sustainable mobility and its partnership with the Polymer Cluster Initiative. We congratulate the team on achieving the regional technology hub designation. This is an important milestone toward developing novel sustainable polymers,” said **Dr. Hans Dorfi, Senior VP of Product Development, Bridgestone Americas**.

“Goodyear strongly supports the Polymer Industry Cluster, a collective effort to leverage our region’s unmatched strengths in the polymer industry. This funding will energize our ability to solve industry-wide challenges and drive innovation in priority areas like sustainability, which is a business imperative for our company and many others,” said **Richard J. Kramer, Chairman, CEO and President, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company**.

“The Commerce Department’s decision to choose the Rubber Capital of the World as a future tech hub is a testament to Akron’s legacy of excellence in this sector and how Ohio has continued to advance technology in this space,” said **JobsOhio President and CEO J.P. Nauseef**. “This tech hub will bring new jobs as well as the next generation of polymer technology innovation from talented Ohioans that will improve manufacturing, aviation, healthcare, national security and more.”

“Northeast Ohio is well-positioned to serve as a Center of Excellence for Ohio, the United States, and the world in implementing sustainable manufacturing capabilities that make our core industries more resilient and our supply chain companies more competitive,” said **Bill Koehler, President & CEO of TeamNEO**. “We are excited about the work ahead with members of the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub to make that opportunity come to fruition.”

“The Northeast Ohio Four County Regional Planning and Development Organization (NEFCO) offers its full support as a consortium member for this project,” said **Nick Lautzenheiser, Program Manager for Economic Development Planning at NEFCO, the EDA-designated Economic Development District for Portage, Stark, Summit, and Wayne Counties, Ohio**. “The Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub furthers four goals of NEFCO’s Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) by strengthening the regional economy and building resilience, expanding collaborative intergovernmental and public-private partnerships, enhancing workforce development training, and positioning the region as a global leader in the sustainable polymer industry.”

## **Resources**

Official Announcement from President Joe Biden: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SL270vEwaY>

Roundtable Discussion with Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FQQ3Dzo7LSM>

U.S. Economic Development Administration Press Release: <https://www.eda.gov/news/press-release/2023/10/23/biden-harris-administration-designates-31-tech-hubs-across-america>



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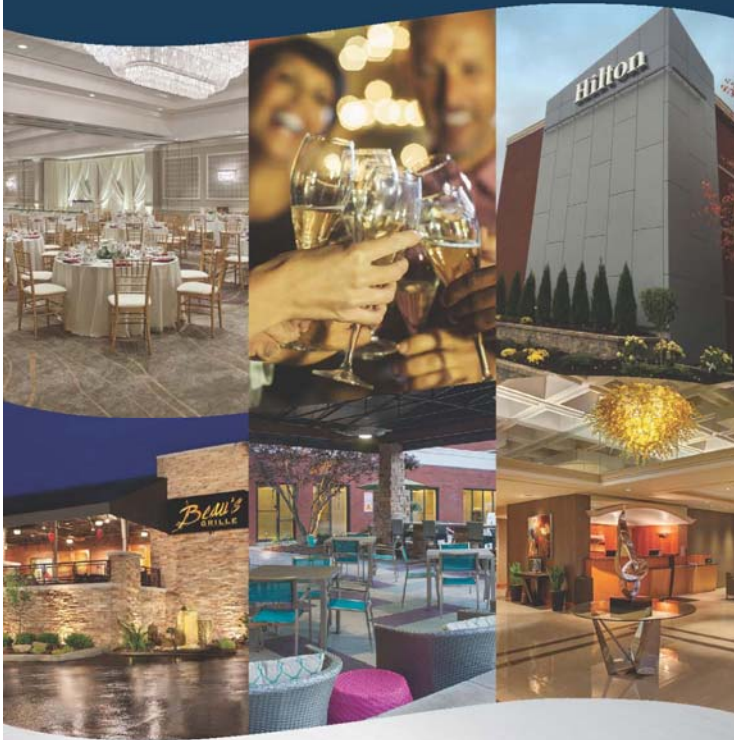
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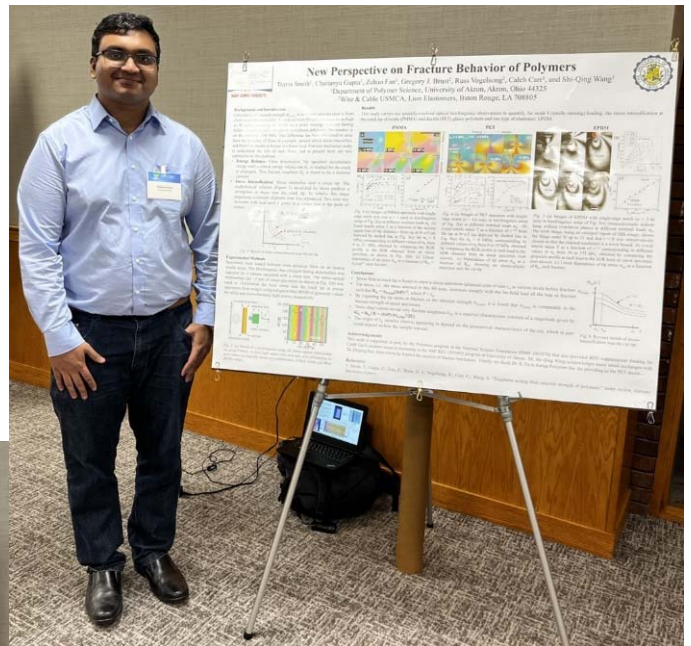
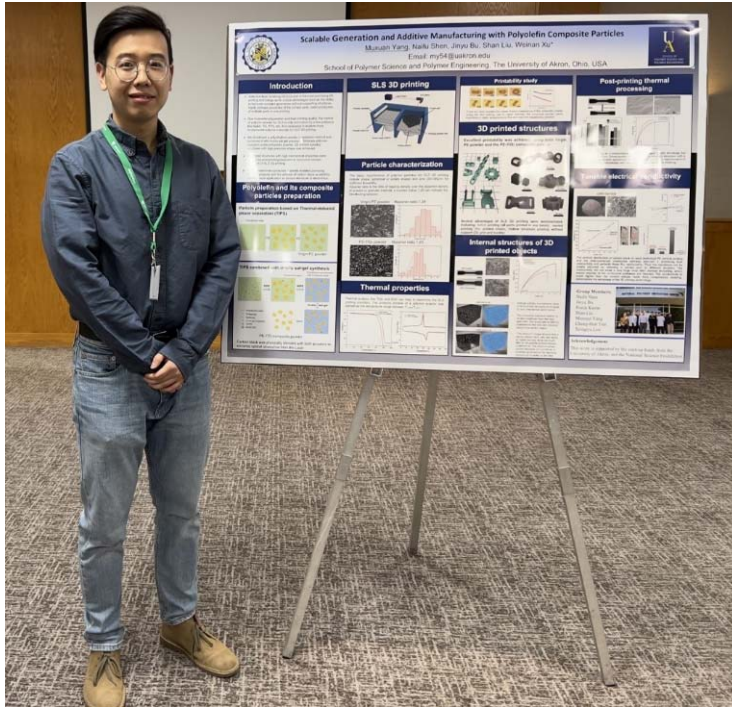
# Programs for 2023/24

- Sep. 11 **Global Economic Factors Now Favor US Plastic Product Mfg over China-Based Operations**  
Greg Kozera, Shale Crescent USA  
-- *Hilton Inn Fairlawn - Akron* \*
- Oct. 10-12 **Vinyltec**  
Positioning Vinyl for Tomorrow  
-- *Hilton Inn Fairlawn - Akron* \*
- Nov. 15-16 **Compounding Conference**  
-- *Huntington Convention Center - Cleveland* \*
- Jan. 10 **ACCESS – Recycling**  
Carla McBain  
*R.Shea Brewery -- Akron* \*
- Feb. TBA **Tours – being planned**  
-- *TBA - Cleveland* \*
- Mar. 12 **ACCESS-Stem event**  
*University of Akron -- Akron* \*
- Apr. TBA **Tours – being planned**  
-- *TBA - Cleveland* \*
- May TBA **Akron Section Awards Night**  
*TBA -- Akron* \*

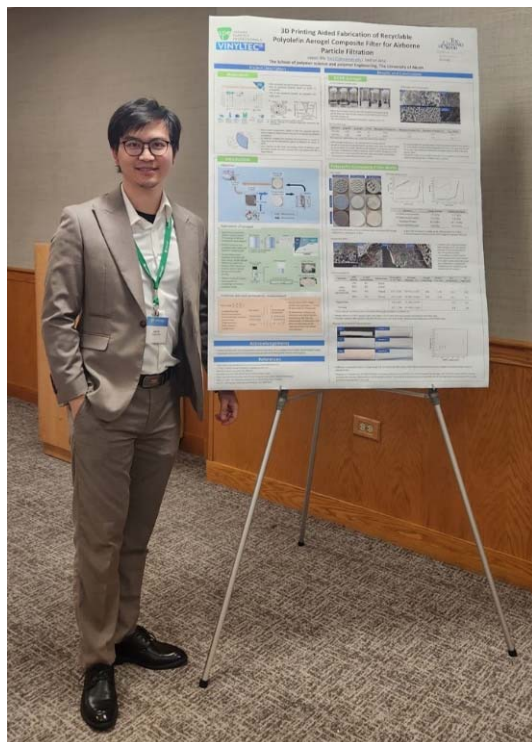
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# Vinyltec – Student Posters

Muxuang Yang, Ph.D. candidate  
Polymer Engineering,  
The University of Akron,  
my54@uakron.edu

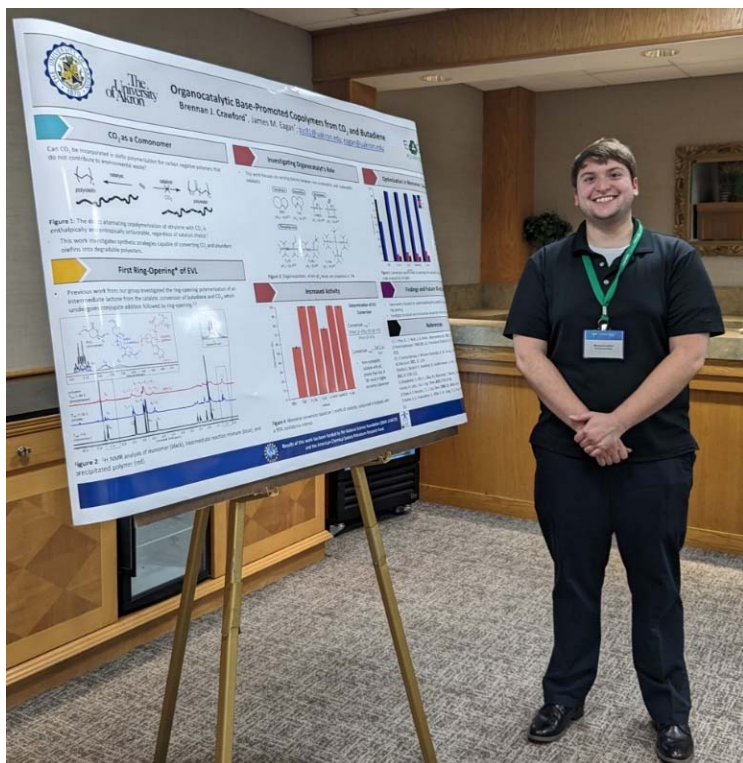


Chaitanya Gupta, Ph.D.  
candidate Polymer Science,  
The University of Akron,  
cg152@uakron.edu

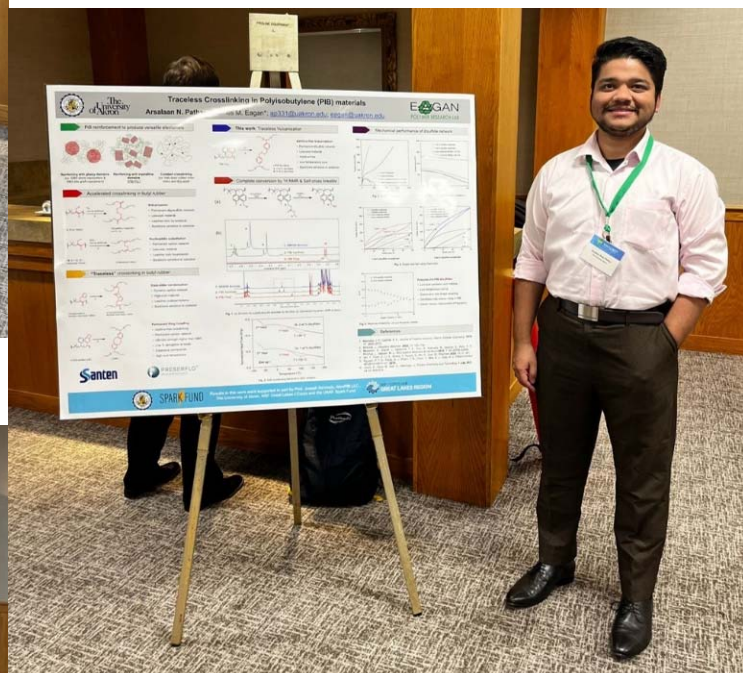


Leyao Wu, Ph.D. candidate  
Polymer Engineering,  
The University of Akron,  
lw103@uakron.edu

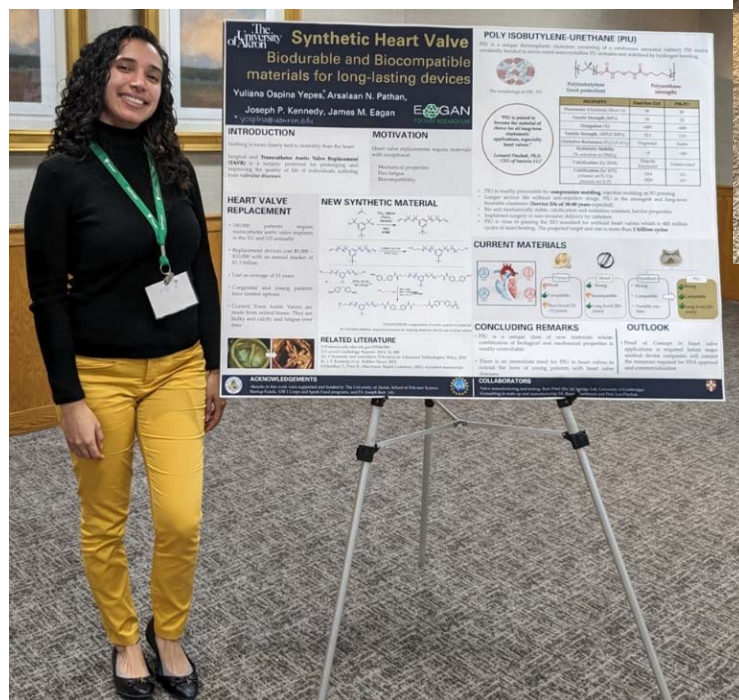
# Vinyltec – Student Posters



Brennan Crawford, Ph.D. candidate Polymer Science, The University of Akron, [bjc81@uakron.edu](mailto:bjc81@uakron.edu)



Arsalaan Pathan, Ph.D. candidate Polymer Science, The University of Akron, [ap331@uakron.edu](mailto:ap331@uakron.edu)



Yuliana Ospina-Yepes, Ph.D. candidate Polymer Science, The University of Akron, [yospina@uakron.edu](mailto:yospina@uakron.edu)

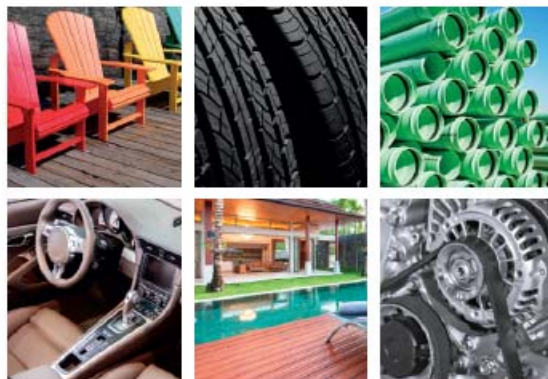
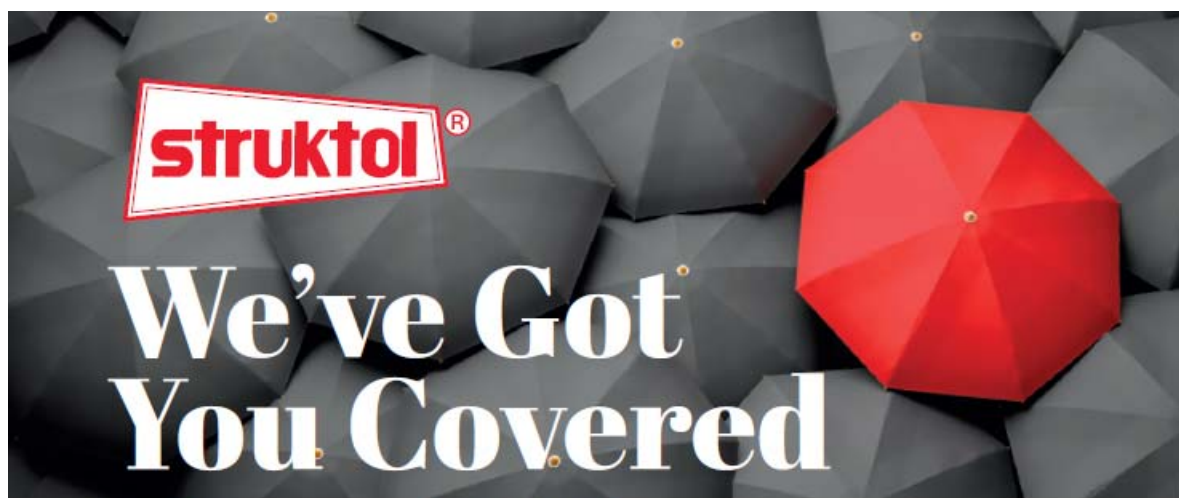


SPE Communities, formerly The Chain, is where industry professionals can participate in peer-to-peer conversations and engage in technical and non-technical discussions. Communities participants can subscribe to posts, see who else is online, receive discussion notifications, connect directly to each other via direct messaging and more. Communities are an ideal way to **stay connected with your peers** to collaborate, share advice, find solutions, and build relationships.

## Tech Talk

This is where professionals from around the world discuss the latest technical issues and innovations in range of marketplaces. Put the knowledge and expertise of thousands of plastics professionals to work for you. Ask a question. Or provide an answer. [Click here.](#)

**For technical polymer questions please use the SPE International forum “Tech Talk”**  
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# Board Meeting Minutes – October 2, 2023

**Call to Order:** In person at PEAC. Meeting called to order at 5:30PM.

**Present:** Dan Jones, Joe Mattingly David Schultz, Larry Stanek, Sherri Makar Hart, Critt Olemacher, John Fellenstein, Bob Weiler, Fred Carter, Tony Dean and Arsalaan Pathan

**Absent:** Kevin Malpass, Sahil Gupta and Dakota Spencer

Meeting hosted by President Dan Jones.

We welcomed Fred Carter- new Treasurer and new student PESO representative Arsalaan Pathan. We as well Thanked RJ for all of his help now over the past 2 plus years!!

Sherri Hart is new Councilor.

David Schultz will contact Sahil Gupta.

August 28 minutes approved as written. Addendum includes Voted and approved an ACCESS Teacher Grant and Sherri brought up opportunity to participate in FRS CLC Robotics Program.

## **Technical Program 2023/24—David Schultz / Larry Stanek**

September 11, 2023 technical meeting was held jointly with the Cleveland Section. Low turn out at Hilton-Akron/Fairlawn.

Program is set for Oct with Vinyltec Oct 10-12 and being further developed with Cleve. They have now set a Oct 23 Magnet meeting, and think they can help us align a Webinar for Nov- 3 D Natives- since Ravgo Tour fell through November- Joint Cleve/PlastiVan- Compounding Conf- Nov 15 and 16

December- Social event- not planned at this time confirm with Cleve as to interest and location

January- Joint meeting ACCESS- R Shea's or Bounce- EV Battery – Recycling- Carla McBain- ACCESS lead with ACS- Akron- David Schultz to contact Carla update

Feb and April- Cleve Tours and travel in planning stages with Automated Plastics tentative

March- The Technology House- in planning stages

March 12- ACCESS- STEM event U of Akron

Larry, Dan and Dave looking into other options for Akron/Cleve- Nov meeting- Lighter than Air Research or Networking meeting with Job Coaches for the mid to later career technical.

## **House—Larry Stanek**

Larry has transitioned along with Dakota Spencer with Bob Weiler.

Larry informs name badges set.

Hilton-Akron/Fairlawn very good to work with. Set for Sept, Oct- Vinyltec.

## **Membership—Kevin Malpass**

Per Sherri, member number now at 171, Sherri to provide past 2-3 years list of members that did NOT renew for Task Group review and to decide how to proceed re contact dropped/expired to make calls and find out details plus will ask for in person follow up.

May consider dropping \$10 fee to align with ASPE?

Sherri to determine best way to capture students with Akron SPE.

Make sure to align attendees local for Vinyltec to sign up Akron Section.

# Board Meeting Minutes – 10/02/2023

## **Treasurer—Bob Weiler**

Treasurer's report submitted to board prior to meeting. Finances in good shape.  
Bob will provide updated copy to BOD under separate cover including new budget for 2023-24.  
Bob working with Fred Carter for Nov 1 turnover.  
VINYLTEC 2023 should do much better per Bob Weiler.

## **Councilor—Sherri Makar Hart**

No report.

## **Student Chapter—Arsalaan Pathan**

Need to confirm current student Chapter Advisor.  
Vinyltec - 6 Posters set with 3 Ushers available Tues and Wed not Thursday.  
Interested in industrial tours.  
Planning Coffee donuts for Fall gathering to align new students.  
Arsalaan introduced himself, his interests and tentative plans for year.  
ASPE- BOD asked for added involvement ideas added mentorship and suggestions for added involvement.

## **Public Interest / Advertising—Tony Dean**

Akron Page of SPE Int'l Website updated with latest meeting announcements and newsletters.  
Six ads for 2023-2024 year placed so far. No price increase for ads this year.  
Tony Dean contact Sandra Pejic of Thermo Fisher Scientific, who was at the Poster Session on April 10 about advertising with the Akron SPE and Sponsoring/Exhibiting. Tony will try again.  
New advertiser for this year Molded Marketing.  
Tony continues to make sure Intl ASPE site is up-to-date.

## **Newsletter—Sherri Makar Hart**

Fall newsletter has been sent out.

## **Website / Social Media—Sherri Makar Hart**

Need updates for Social media- Linked In and FB.

## **Awards—Keith Pelfrey**

Keith asked BOD to please review options for this year Hall of Honor, Lifetime and added Awards plus Zekan.  
David Schultz to check on membership for a specific candidate for potential Lifetime award.

## **Section Awards—Keith Pelfrey**

No report.

## **Education Committee—John Fellenstein**

Informed new Scholarship application sent to Jenny, Tony and Sherri.  
Joe informs he made a key Goodyear contact he will align for future contact on all STEM and student oriented events.  
Possibility of more scholarships to qualified students.

## **Education Foundation—Joe Mattingly**

Recently had a Fdn meeting with new Committee. Fund doing well even with up and down market.  
Joe Mattingly will still be chairman. No changes needed to current portfolios.

# Board Meeting Minutes – 10/02/2023

## Growth Committee—Kevin Malpass

BOD discussed we need to align added Co-Chair to Committee to align ideas for growth.

## 2023 VINYLTEC—David Schultz

Vinyltec is in good shape and set for week Oct 10-12. Program with Keynotes are now set- entire Program on line. Sponsors are set as well exhibitors.

## ACCESS Update—David Schultz

Per Joe Mattingly - ACCESS will be able to provide ASPE House with daily updates.

PayPal available for events have added Dietary restrictions plus Company encourage to sign up and pay prior to meetings.

## Old Business

Dan Jones will be president for 2023-2024 year.

Sherri Hart new councilor.

Bob Weiler will remain as Treasurer thorough October 2023. Fred Carter taking over treasurer.

Joe reviewed location of ASPE Equipment and John Fellenstein informed he has purchased new screen- modern format.

Laptop- Dan Jones will provide to new Treasurer. Projector- new- Keith Pelfrey, old Joe. Screen – old U of Akron.

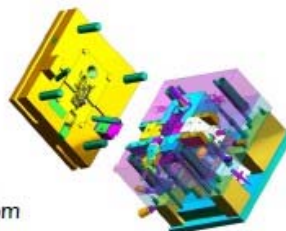
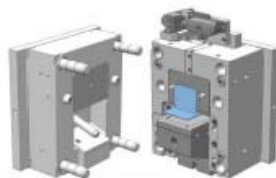
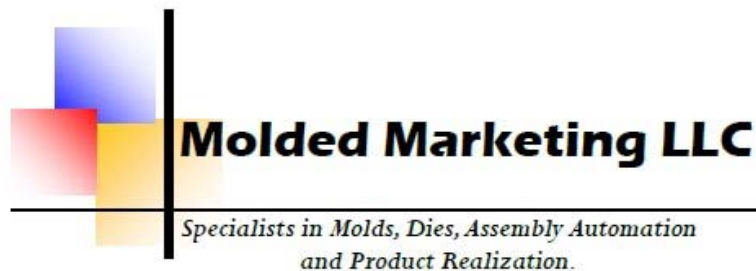
John will remain at AGPA- til June 30.

## New Business

Sherri Makar Hart nquired about funding for robotics program. Joe Mattingly says there has to be plastics or polymer content. Sherri to investigate further.

Joe informs he made new contacts at Goodyear and will align with ASPE/ACCESS for STEM events and Scholarships.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting will take place November 6. Dan Jones/John will advise parking details.



### **MOLDED MARKETING LLC**

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☎ 330.201.3751  
E-Mail [Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com](mailto:Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com)  
Scott Peters—President



# Akron Section Past Presidents

*63 years of  
excellence*

1959-1960 Donald F. Siddall  
1960-1961 Milan Krajcik  
1961-1962 Foster J. Young  
1962-1963 Dickson L. Stoker, III  
1963-1964 Edward L. Hillier  
1964-1965 John R. Russell  
1965-1966 John R. Russell  
1966-1967 Clyde H. Jones  
1967-1968 Alan Corry, Jr.  
1968-1969 Bernard M. Saffian  
1969-1970 Harold R. Schick  
1970-1971 Robert G. Hills  
1971-1972 John J. Satterfield  
1972-1973 Alexis M. Gross  
1973-1974 Francis J. Maurer  
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# Akron Section Society of Plastics Engineers Educational Foundation



06-22

The Akron Society of Plastics Engineers Educational Foundation operates exclusively for the benefit of and to carry out the purposes of the Akron Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers, which is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics by making educational scholarship grants to deserving students in the field of plastics engineering and related subjects. The Organization is supported primarily by contributions from the Akron Society of Plastics Engineers, the Society's individual members and corporations like yours affiliated with the polymer industry.

Since the inception in 1983, the Akron Society of Plastics Engineers Educational Foundation has grown to its current position through the hard work of many volunteers and the generosity of the local business community. Over the nearly forty years that the foundation has been in existence, it has provided over 300 scholarships to young men and women totaling in excess of \$441,000 to assist them in furthering their careers in the polymer industry.

Our goal is to continue to grow the assets of the Foundation in order to increase the number of scholarships awarded, as well as the size of the awards, and to do so in perpetuity. In doing this, we hope to be able to contribute to the supply of well-trained individuals to support the growth of the polymer industry in the Northeast Ohio area today and well into the future.

When the Foundation began its fund raising activities in 1983, we offered those companies who contributed a substantial donation, a perpetual annual scholarship in their name. To date we have four named scholarships, Newell/Rubbermaid, Goodyear, Ken Sharp Memorial and Jim Steiner Memorial scholarships. We are asking your company to help with the growth of well-trained individuals in the local polymer industry. Please print this page, fill out the information and mail it to David Schultz, 610 Berkshire Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256.

## Akron SPE Scholarship Donation Commitment

- \$50,000 lump sum
- \$10,000/yr. next 5 yrs.
- \$6,250/yr. next 8 yrs.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Our named scholarship donors are recognized at the annual Awards Night of the Akron Society of Plastics Engineers. We invite you to present your tax deductible donation at our Awards Night held in May each year.

We look forward to your support of this very worthwhile cause by your fine company. Please contact me at (330) 283-5721 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*David Schultz, Foundation Chair*  
*Akron Section Society of Plastics Engineers, Educational Foundation*



**Akron Section Society of Plastics Engineers**  
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