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## ***SPE® ISSUES CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE-LEVEL RESEARCH IN AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES***

***Two Scholarships for Graduate Research in Composites to be Awarded,  
Applications Due June 2008 for Awards to be Announced August 2008***

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the ***SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition*** (SPE ACCE) announced today that it will again bestow two \$2,000 USD scholarships for graduate-level research in polymer composites that has impact on ground transportation. Shares of the proceeds from last year's ***SPE ACCE*** are funding this year's scholarships.

Students interested in applying will find a *Scholarship Application* form available for downloading at [www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm](http://www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm). Applications should be submitted electronically to [ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com](mailto:ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com) by June 30<sup>th</sup> for awards to be announced in early August. Winning students are required to report on the results of their findings during the 9<sup>th</sup>-annual ***SPE ACCE***, which takes place September 15-17, 2009. Winners will be selected from the pool of qualified applicants by ***SPE ACCE*** committee members and representatives from General Motors, Ford Motor Company, and Chrysler LLC.

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*SPE to Give Two Scholarships for Graduate-Level Research in Composites*  
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This is the second year conference organizers have offered scholarships. In 2007, two awards were made in honor of journalist and composites-industry insider, Steve Loud who passed away in 2006. The recipients were Mr. Roston Elwell from Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas) for research on the use of active-core composite sandwich panels; and Mr. Alejandro Londono-Hurtado from University of Wisconsin-Madison (Madison, Wisc.) whose work involves application of computer simulation and numerical modeling to predict variations in fiber orientation and density distribution during molding of fiber-reinforced automotive parts. Both scholarship winners will report their findings at the 2008 **SPE ACCE**, which will be held September 16-18, 2008 in Troy, Mich.

Now in its 8<sup>th</sup> year, the **SPE ACCE** has become the world's leading forum for automotive composites and draws exhibitors, speakers, and attendees from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America. Held annually in the suburbs of Detroit, the conference provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, and Asia / Pacific as well as North America and who represent transportation OEMs and tier suppliers; composite materials, processing equipment, additives, and reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultants, university and government labs; media; and investment bankers. The show is sponsored jointly by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. SPE's Automotive and Composites Divisions work to advance plastics and plastic-based composites technologies worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. Both divisions are dedicated to educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments, including materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design and testing, and application development.

For more information about the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition**, visit the Composites' Division website at [www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php](http://www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php), or the Automotive Division's website at [www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm](http://www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm), or contact the group at +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE Automotive Division, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers International or other SPE events, visit the SPE website at [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org), or call +1.203.775.0471.

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