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SPE[®] ISSUES CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR GRADUATE-LEVEL RESEARCH IN AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES

***Scholarships Application Forms Due June 30, 2009 for
Two Awards to be Announced August 2009***

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. Students interested in applying will find a *Scholarship Application* form available for downloading at www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm; applications should be submitted electronically to ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com by June 30, 2009 for awards to be announced in early August. Shares of the proceeds from last year's ***SPE ACCE*** show are funding this year's scholarships.

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. Winning students will be required to report on the results of their findings during the tenth-annual ***SPE ACCE***, which takes place in September 2010.

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This is the third 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 **Roston Elwell** from **Texas A&M University (College Station, Texas)** for research on the *Use of Active-Core Composite Sandwich Panels for Improved Automotive Safety*; and **Alejandro Londono-Hurtado** from **University of Wisconsin-Madison** (Madison, Wisc.) whose work involved *Simulation and Numerical Modeling of Fiber Orientation and Density Distribution During Molding of Fiber-Reinforced Automotive Parts*. In 2008, two new winners were selected: **Uday Sharma** of **University of Michigan-Dearborn (Dearborn, Mich.)** has been researching *Analysis of Thermoplastic Woven Composites at High-Strain Rates*, while **Tobias Potyra** of **Fraunhofer Institute of Chemical Technology (Pfinztal, Germany)** worked on *New Direct Processing Technology for the Manufacture of SMC Parts (Direct-SMC)*. Both students will present the results of their work at the 2009 **SPE ACCE** conference, September 15-17, 2009.

The ACCE typically draws over 400 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees from 14 countries on 4 continents with fully one-third indicating they work for an OEM involved in ground transportation or aerospace/aviation. Interestingly, over the past few years, the types of transportation OEMs represented at the show have continued to broaden beyond traditional automotive and light truck, to include agriculture, truck & bus, heavy truck, and aviation. This trend may indicate greater interest in technology sharing among transportation OEMs and suppliers.

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE 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, visit the Composites' Division website at www.4spe.org/communities/divisions/d39.php, or the Automotive Division's website at 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, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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