



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (04/21/10)**  
**SPE-ACCE-02-10**

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

***Scholarships Application Forms Due July 21, 2010 for  
Two Awards to be Announced August 2010***

**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](http://www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm); applications should be submitted electronically to [ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com](mailto:ACCEpapers@speautomotive.com) by July 21, 2010 for awards to be announced in August. Donations made by the ***SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions*** are funding this year's scholarships.

Winners will be selected from the pool of qualified applicants by ***SPE ACCE*** committee members and invited industry experts. Winning students will be required to report on the results of their findings during the eleventh-annual ***SPE ACCE***, which takes place September 13-15, 2011. This is the fourth year conference organizers have offered these graduate scholarships.

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In 2009, awards were presented to **Gregorio Manuel Vélez-García**, a Ph.D. candidate at **Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University**, whose work is focused on *Development of a New Method for Predicting Fiber Orientation in Fiber-Reinforced Injection-Molded Thermoplastics*, and to **Zeba Farheen Abdul Samad**, a doctoral candidate at the **University of Illinois-Urbana/Champaign** whose work research topic is *Novel Aromatic Thermosetting Copolyester (ATCP) / Carbon Fiber Composites*. Students will present the results of their research at the tenth-annual **SPE ACCE**, September 15 and 16, 2010. In 2008, the winners were **Uday Sharma** of **University of Michigan-Dearborn**, whose topic was *Analysis of Thermoplastic Woven Composites at High-Strain Rates*, and **Tobias Potyra** of **Fraunhofer Institute of Chemical Technology**, who worked on *New Direct Processing Technology for the Manufacture of SMC Parts (Direct-SMC)*. The first scholarships were given in 2007 and 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** for research on the *Use of Active-Core Composite Sandwich Panels for Improved Automotive Safety*; and **Alejandro Londono-Hurtado** from **University of Wisconsin-Madison** whose work involved *Simulation and Numerical Modeling of Fiber Orientation and Density Distribution During Molding of Fiber-Reinforced Automotive Parts*.

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the automotive composites industry. The ACCE typically draws over 400 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees from 14 countries on five continents with fully one-third indicating they work for an OEM involved in automotive, heavy truck, off-highway, agriculture, or aerospace/aviation. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, 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 Automotive Division website at [www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm](http://www.speautomotive.com/comp.htm), or the Composites Division's website at <http://www.compositeshelp.com/>, or call +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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