

Palisades-New Jersey Scholarship History

The Palisades-New Jersey section has distributed scholarships to students for many years, and we are dedicated to our student members and inspiring the next generation of plastics professionals. We want to highlight the names on some of our scholarships. The two scholarships designated for high school students are named in honor of Francis McAndrew and Salvatore J. Monte, and the two scholarships designated for undergraduates in physical, chemical, or materials science/engineering are named in honor of Richard J. Bradley and Stephen Duerr.

Francis has faithfully served as our Section Treasurer for many years. He is retired from Celanese's Ticona Division after over 40 years of service.

Salvatore J. Monte is the President of Kenrich Petrochemicals, Inc., a specialty chemical manufacturer of coupling agents and polymer additives. He is a co-owner of the company, which has been in business since 1945. Sal Monte is a long-time member and past president of our SPE section, and an SPE fellow and honored service member, and member of the Plastics Pioneers Association. Sal received his B.C.E. from Manhattan College in 1961 and M.S. in Polymeric Materials from NYU Poly in 1969. Sal is a licensed professional engineer in the state of New Jersey. Sal is an expert in applications of organometallics and reactive diluents in thermosets and thermoplastics, with at least 30 US patents and more globally, and he continues to publish papers and give presentations as Kenrich's technology expands into new uses.

Rich Bradley has been an SPE member since 1973 and is a member of the Palisades-New Jersey Section and Vinyl Plastics Division where he has served in virtually every office and chair for both, including President of the Palisades Section and Chairman of the Vinyl Plastics Division. Rich was awarded the prestigious SPE President's Cup in 2010 for sustained service to the SPE. Rich is a former member of the Executive Committee of SPE, serving as Vice President from 2002-2005, and is currently an Honored Service Member of the Society. Rich was instrumental in organizing many Palisades sponsored conferences, particularly VINYLTEC conferences. He is now semi-retired from PVC resin and plastic additives sales at Shawnee Chemical. Rich holds a BS in Marketing from the University of Bridgeport.

Dr. J. Stephen Duerr is chair of the Gerson-Reilly Educational Endowment Committee and Fund. He has been a member of SPE and the Palisades – New Jersey Section since 1987. He was a member of the Section Board for many years and served as Section President for two terms. Steve owned Metuchen Analytical, an independent chemistry and microbiology laboratory, and operated as a consulting chemist and materials failure analyst. Although he now lives and works as a consultant in North Carolina, he continues to faithfully serve the Section. Steve is a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists, and a Registered Professional Engineer.

The Jack Ryan Memorial undergraduate scholarship is named in memory of Jack Ryan, who was President of the Newark and New Jersey Sections of the Society of Plastics Engineers. He graduated from Fordham University in 1958, and then obtained an MBA in Economics From NYU. He served in the US Marine Corps and was awarded 4 battle stars. He was the general manager and executive of the Polymerland distribution company from 1980-1991 and General Manager of Canada Colors Corporation from 1999 until his retirement.

The Alva Whitney Memorial graduate scholarship is named in memory of Alva Edison Whitney, who made many contributions to the plastics industry and to our section in particular. He was instrumental in founding the Palisades section in 1964 and the Vinyl Division in 1970. Al was awarded the SPE President's Cup in 1975. Along with Mel Gerson and Dave Riley, he formed the Educational Endowment Committee and Fund, which plays a significant role in what our section is able to do today to support students. Al was 100 years old when he passed away in November 2014. You can read more about Al on our website's [History](#) page.

These are just a few of our section's dedicated volunteers who have placed a high value on education. We welcome students to apply for academic scholarships as they pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees.