

**SPE Palisades New Jersey Virtual Section Meeting  
Thursday, March 4, 5:00 pm, n/c**

**POLYMER BIODEGRADABILITY IN PACKAGING DESIGN**

**Dr. Kelvin Okamoto. Green Bottom Line**

*Presentation hosted by Rutgers Student Chapter*



***Speaker biography:***

Dr. Kelvin Okamoto is President of Green Bottom Line consultancy, focusing on sustainable materials and packaging development, testing, and certification. He is the Chair of ASTM D20.96 on Environmentally Degradable Plastics and Biobased Products, which is a subcommittee of ASTM D20 Plastics Committee. He is a board member of SPE's Central Indiana section and the Indiana Recycling Coalition, and an advisor and active member with many other professional organizations. Dr. Okamoto has worked for many companies in his long career in plastics, beginning at GE Plastics and, just prior to establishing his consultancy, as Chief Technology Officer at bioplastics company Cereplast.

Dr. Okamoto will speak about the differences between degradability and biodegradability, as well as the requirements to prove biodegradability. The link for the GoToMeeting Video Meeting and Phone Dial-In Information will be posted on our website [www.spe-pnj.org](http://www.spe-pnj.org) on the day of the meeting.

The board meeting will be on "GoToMeeting" on February 25 at 4:30 pm; contact us at [info@spe-pnj.org](mailto:info@spe-pnj.org) with questions or if you want to attend the board meeting.

**Want To Become a Section Member?**

If you're receiving this newsletter regularly, you probably are on our membership list. But if not, if you're already an SPE member, [click here](#) to add a geographical section to your SPE membership. If you want to join SPE as a member, [click here](#), and then choose Palisades-New Jersey as your section membership. Our section members are also active in SPE Technical Divisions, such as the [Vinyl Plastics Division](#), the [Thermoplastic Materials and Foams Division](#), and the [Extrusion Division](#), among others. Check out all the divisions [here](#).

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES**

**2021**

<b>March 4</b>	Virtual Meeting Hosted by Rutgers Student Chapter
<b>April 6-7</b>	SPE Plastics Processing Conference Hosted by Lehigh Valley Section
<b>May 5-7</b>	ANTEC®2021
<b>May 10-21</b>	SPE ANTEC® Classic
<b>Late May</b>	Palisades NJ Awards Meeting

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



First, Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that we're halfway through February already although lately, with all of the snow that we've had in this area, it seems like spring can't come fast enough. In the "Something to look forward to" category is our March 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with the Rutgers Student Section.

Please join us virtually to hear Dr. Kelvin Okomoto give a seminar on biodegradability and to meet some of the student members of the Rutgers SPE Section. And speaking of students, Education Chairman Mark Lavach is getting ready to accept applications for our 2021 scholarship awards. Mark and his committee always have a difficult time choosing from the many worthy students who apply. We are very fortunate that we have been able to support so many scholarships over the years due to industry support of our events and we thank you for that!

We will soon be preparing to vote on new members of the Section Board of Directors. If you are interested in volunteering as a candidate, please let us know before February 25.

Peg Schipper

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SPE PLASTICS PROCESSING CONFERENCE 2021

**April 6-7, 2021 — Virtual Event**

Hosted by the Lehigh Valley Section

The SPE Lehigh Valley Section is organizing technical sessions for the inaugural SPE Plastics Processing & Compounding Conference.

**The following areas being covered will include:**

- Current Trends in Plastics Processing & Compounding Technology
- Advances in Plastics Processing
- Single and Twin Screw Extrusion
- Reactive Extrusion
- Injection Molding
- Advances in Compounding
- Polymer Blends
- Filled Polymer Systems
- Post compounding processes
- Process-Property Relationships
- Polymer Modification
- Modelling/Simulation
- 3D Printing
- Sustainability & Recycling

### Questions?

Conference Chair: [Patrick Kelley](#),  
*Waste Not Technologies, LLC*

Technical Program Chair: [Dr. Paul Brigandi](#)  
*Dow*



# THE PALISADES-NEW JERSEY SECTION OF THE SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS OFFERS ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Young people are not only our pride and joy but they are also the future leaders of the world. So, they deserve our blessings and support. With that in mind, the Palisades-New Jersey Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) is proud to offer academic scholarships to associated members who have demonstrated excellence in various fields of study. The scholarship categories and criteria are listed below. If you, or a family member, are interested in participating **please submit the required documents by April 20, 2021.**



If you are not a current member of SPE but you are interested in joining or becoming affiliated with the SPE Palisades-New Jersey Section, please contact us at [info@spe-pnj.org](mailto:info@spe-pnj.org) or visit <http://www.4spe.org>. The SPE Foundation offers a variety of scholarships available for both graduate and undergraduate students. Information about these scholarships can be found at [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org)

Scholarship Name	Scholarship Award	Number Available	Academic Criteria	Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE), Palisades-New Jersey Section Criteria
<b>ALVA WHITNEY GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>1</b>	Graduate Study In Any Field, Applicant must be in good academic standing	Full, Affiliate or Student SPE Member or Child or Grandchild of active Palisades-New Jersey Section Member
<b>JACK RYAN UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP</b>	<b>\$4,000</b>	<b>1</b>	Undergraduate Study in Any Field, Applicant must be in good academic standing	Full, Affiliate or Student SPE Member or Child or Grandchild of active Palisades-New Jersey Section Member
<b>RICHARD BRADLEY AND STEPHEN DUERR UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>2</b>	Undergraduate study in Physical, Chemical, or Materials Science/Engineering, Applicant must be in good academic standing	Full, Affiliate or Student SPE Member or Child or Grandchild of active Palisades-New Jersey Section Member
<b>FRANCIS McANDREW AND SAL MONTE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>2</b>	Planned Study in any field	Graduating High School Student at time of award, Child or Grandchild of an active Palisades-New Jersey Section Member
<b>PALISADES-NEW JERSEY DISCRETIONARY SCHOLARSHIPS</b>	<b>Varied</b>	<b>TBD</b>	Graduate or Undergraduate Study In Any Field, Applicant must be in good academic standing	Full, Affiliate or Student SPE Member or Child or Grandchild of active Palisades-New Jersey Section Member

**The deadline for submissions April 20, 2021.**

To apply for a scholarship, please submit the documents listed below. Official transcripts must be submitted by postal mail or courier (*i.e. FedEx, UPS*) to the address below. Transcripts are considered confidential and will not be viewed by anyone outside of the evaluation team. Essays and membership information may be submitted by email to [mark.lavach@arkema.com](mailto:mark.lavach@arkema.com). *Submit official transcripts to: Mark Lavach, ARKEMA INC. 900 First Avenue, King of Prussia, PA 19406.* An official electronic transcript (sent directly to [mark.lavach@arkema.com](mailto:mark.lavach@arkema.com) from the registrar's office or via a link sent to allow downloading from a secure portal) is an acceptable alternative to mailing an official paper transcript. Awards announced in early May 2021 and will be distributed at the final Palisades-New Jersey Section Meeting.

**Required Documents:**

- Official Transcript
- A one to two page essay describing your contributions to your chosen field of study or how the scholarship award might help you to achieve your future goals.
- Your SPE membership number or the number of the member to whom you are related (as necessary).



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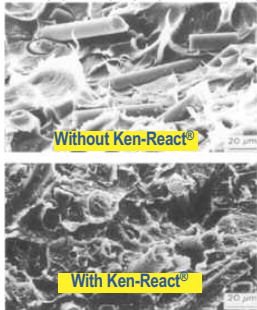
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**Award News****Salvatore Monte Selected for Plastics Hall of Fame**

Salvatore Monte, section member and president and co-owner of [Kenrich Petrochemicals Inc.](#), was selected to be part of the 2021 class of the Plastics Hall of Fame. This honor recognizes those who have dedicated themselves to the advancement of the plastics industry and have contributed extraordinary accomplishments. Sal has a long list of patents representing a lifetime of professional work. You can read more about the invention of Ken-React® titanate, zirconate and aluminate organometallics and the history of Kenrich on their website. Sal shared a presentation with our section last year about how the Ken-React nano-titanium technology can work to compatibilize dissimilar materials in thermoplastic recycling. Sal is also a member of the Plastics Pioneers Association and an SPE Fellow and Honored Service Member. Congratulations, Sal, on this great honor!

**Mark Lavach Elected as SPE Fellow**

Mark Lavach has been elected as a Fellow of the Society of Plastics Engineers. Election as a Fellow recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of plastics technology. Mark is internationally known for his technical knowledge in plastics properties, testing and analysis, and has been the Chair of the ASTM International Committee D20 on Plastics since 2016. Mark is a dedicated member of our section and board of directors who has spent countless hours in coordinating Vinyltec®, managing the section scholarship program, and mentoring the student chapters, as well as sharing his experience gained from serving many roles in the Palisades and Palisades-New Jersey Sections, including being our Section President. Mark, thank you for your service and congratulations!

**Rutgers Student Chapter News****By Sanjna Sukumaran**

For the Spring 2021 semester, SPE - Rutgers has still been trying to run as normal as possible. We have many exciting events planned for the semester including a scholarship event early February with Mark Lavach. Mark is also attending our Resume Review and Mock Interview workshop along with Peggy Schipper and Rob Decker in mid-February. We're hoping this event will better prepare Rutgers students as they pursue jobs and internships in the plastics industry and beyond. In March, the Chapter is hosting Dr. Kelvin T. Okamoto to speak on polymer degradability, and we are inviting the professional section of SPE and the packaging department at Rutgers to join us. We are excited for this upcoming semester and looking forward to all that is to come!

**Arkema Team Wins Best Technical Presentation for Vinyltec® 2019.**

Vinyltec® conferences are the leading global technology forum specifically devoted to the development of vinyl technology. Held over a 3-day period, this conference features tutorials and presentations given by leading vinyl technologists and attracts nearly 300 attendees. At Vinyltec®2020, the Virtual Edition, Arkema's presentation on "Vertical Height Impact Testing – The Final Frontier" was awarded Best Technical Presentation for Vinyltec®2019.

The presentation, given by Mark Lavach, was the result of a cross-functional project between members of Arkema's Analytical and Systems Research Group (ASR), and the PVC Additives Team. This work, the third in a series of presentations, continued the investigation on the effect of compound and sample variation on impact test variability. Previously, the team observed possible changes in sample composition resulting from impact testing and hypothesized that material flow during the impact test could be a cause of these changes. This study confirmed these findings and revealed that variation in composition appeared proportional to the energy of impact and possibly plays a role in the actual failure mechanism. The team previously won Best Technical Presentations at Vinyltec®2017 and 2018 for earlier presentations on rigid PVC compound separation and its influence on Vertical Height Impact Test variability.



*Pictured from left to right; Rich Racan, Daryle Stockwell, Laura Nebel, Dana Garcia, Mark Lavach, Sara Reynaud, Eric Peterson, and Pierre Ricou.*

*Not pictured, Kevin Yocca, Gunter Moeller*

## COUNCILOR'S REPORT



The Winter Council meeting was held virtually on January 28, 2021. President Jaime Gomez presented a high level description of the changing needs and demographics of the society members and customers including the impact of Covid on the delivery of events. He commented on how quickly staff had adapted when the message was clear that ANTEC® in San Antonio would not

happen as an in-person event. This year the Society initiated a virtual Spanish language forum on Plastic Processing, and webinars have been greatly expanded. SPE has assisted various sections and divisions with their virtual platform events in 2020 and 2021. ANTEC® was virtual in 2020 and is scheduled in 2021 as virtual. ANTEC® has been moved from March to May to help fill the hole left by NPE cancelling all operations.

SPE has had a flat year vs 2019. Investments helped much like they did in 2019 to shore up the society to close to breakeven. Membership attrition, which has been an issue over the years, is now in the single digits.

Scott Eastman- VP of Chapters- described what the SPE has been doing to develop viable communities within SPE. They have identified over 500 communities within SPE and have decided to compress those to form more vital communities. These will range from interest groups through fully operating divisions. They are being streamlined so that reporting and paperwork are kept at an appropriate but minimal level and the focus on growth and engagement of the members of the communities.

Changes to awards and publications were discussed. "Plastics for Life" and "Plastics Make it possible" are being coordinated – SPE will take over the ACC Plastics Make it Possible with the participants and winners of these competitions getting a spotlight at ANTEC® and in Plastics Engineering Magazine. SPE is taking back Plastics Engineering magazine from Wiley in order to do a better job of focus on SPE activities and content

The SPE Foundation has also adapted to the new Normal by offering more virtual programming including videos. Different sections (Detroit being a large contributor) are sponsoring videos so that SPE can continue to reach the youth to make them informed of the value of plastics engineering.

-Maggie Baumann,  
Palisades-New Jersey Section Councilor

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