

SPE Palisades-New Jersey Section Scholarship Awards Announcement

Scholarships are funded by the Gerson-Riley Endowment Fund. Melvin Gerson and Dave Riley were members of the Palisades section who started the endowment fund. Profits from conferences run by the section go into the fund, and the interest from the fund is used for scholarships. Many thanks to Steve Duerr who is the chair of the fund and carefully administrates it. Thanks also to Mark Lavach, education chair, who puts many hours into organizing the scholarship process, and to the scholarship committee members for their time judging the scholarship applications: Joe Duska, Mike Fisch, Peggy Schipper, Greg Treich, and Jack Dispenza.

Congratulations to the 2021 scholarship award winners!

Alva Whitney Memorial Graduate Scholarship: Alyaa Elsaadany
PhD candidate in Materials Science at Rutgers. Alyaa's thesis involves developing polymer-graphene composites using selective laser sintering (*a 3D printing process*), in Dr. Tom Nosker's lab.



Alyaa Elsaadany



Elizabeth DeFazio

Jack Ryan Undergraduate Scholarship: Elizabeth DeFazio

J. Stephen Duerr Undergraduate Scholarship: Farah Samy



Farah Samy



Melanie Alpert

Sal Monte Undergraduate Scholarship: Melanie Alpert

Rich Bradley Undergraduate Scholarship: Kyler McKee

Francis McAndrew High School Scholarship: Gabriel Decker

BOARD Scholarships were awarded to undergraduates Natalie Ginez, Eli Paul, Sanjna Sukumaran, Alissa Kapp, Laura Markarian, Emily Duerr, Jordan Remillard, Joi Rae Connor, and Kyle Duerr. *(see page 2 for photos)*

At the awards ceremony, Sal Monte shared about some thoughts with the students about his career in the plastics industry. Sal, who is president and co-owner of Kenrich Petrochemicals, was inducted this year into the Plastics Hall of Fame, which crowned a lifetime of achievement in plastics. He pointed out that passion is key to success, and he talked about how important it is to continue to learn. Sal quoted Warren Buffett, who said "Knowledge builds up, like compound interest," and Sal explained how what he had learned helped him invent solutions to problems, which led to patented products, with his first titanate coupling agent invented in 1973. Sal said "I worked hard – it's what I do!" and he also pointed out that the process of invention involves inspiration. He shared many words of wisdom with the students and wished them well.

Mark Lavach pointed out how Sal and many others have given back so that those who come after them can have the same opportunities, and he called on the scholarship winners to do the same.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy Spring/Summer! I know all of us are looking forward to getting outside in some nice weather without a mask, although I have to admit that I've grown accustomed to wearing one! I think I'm suffering from mask anxiety at this point. Hopefully, we will continue to progress on a positive track as more and more people are vaccinated. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in person again in the near future, especially this October at the Vinyltec® in Indianapolis. This event will be a hybrid one in order to take everyone's needs into account.

This message will be my final one as President of the section. Next year, after a merger with the Lehigh Valley Section this summer, something that we have been working on all year, we will officially have a new name: Palisades–Mid-Atlantic Section. The new name gives a nod to our founders who created the foundation for so many great scholarships (*Palisades*) and the increase in geography that the section will encompass (*NJ and Lehigh Valley of Pennsylvania*). Additionally, the merged section will bring in more polymer focus than PVC alone although we will continue to host the Vinyltec® in 2023 and probably every other year as we traditionally have. It is a pleasure to welcome the members of the Lehigh Valley Section into the merged section to give us a more robust organization to face the future with.

Peg Schipper

continued from page 1

Undergraduate BOARD Scholarship Recipients:



Joi-Rae Connor



Emily Duerr

Photo not available

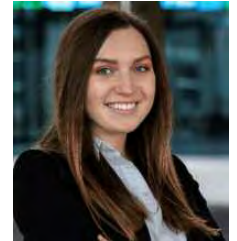
Kyle Duerr



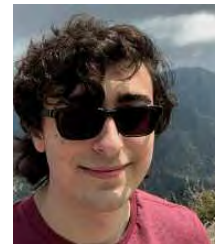
Natalie Ginez



Alissa Kapp



Laura Markarian



Eli Paul



Jordan Remillard



Sanjna Sukumaran

New Name: Palisades – Mid-Atlantic Section

Current members of the Lehigh Valley Section and the Palisades-New Jersey Section will automatically become members of the new Palisades – Mid-Atlantic Section; members do not need to take any action. However, if you renew your membership after July 1, be sure to look for the new section name on the renewal form. Remember that when you renew your SPE membership, you must choose a geographic section; it is not automatically selected.

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 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](#).



COUNCILOR'S REPORT



SPE announced new Executive Board Members for the term beginning July 1, 2021:

- ◆ Dr. Jason Lyons, President
- ◆ Bruce Mulholland, President-Elect
- ◆ Conor Carlin, VP Sustainability
- ◆ Dr. Scott Eastman, VP Chapters
- ◆ Dr. Raymond Pearson, VP Publications.
- ◆ Dr. Jaime Gómez, Past President
- ◆ Patrick Farrey, Chief Executive Officer
- ◆ James Waddell, VP Business & Finance *(start immediately)*
- ◆ Lynzie Nebel, VP Member Engagement

A council of the whole meeting was held April 28, with the next scheduled meeting in June. The Council is working out what our "new" governance role should be. I have recommended we look at the functional groups that worked well in the past: forming sub-groups around functional roles of the society. For our next meeting we are going to discuss what has worked well (and not so well) during the period of the pandemic, which dramatically affected our conduct of business, meetings and the society activities.

A report on ANTEC® 2021 is to be published.

-Maggie Baumann,
Palisades-New Jersey Section Councilor

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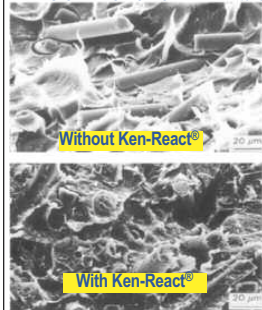
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