

**ATTACHMENTS: Photos of Scholarship Recipients; Biographical Summaries; SPE Thermoforming Division logo.**

Contact for SPE: Lesley Kyle, +1 914-671-9524, [lesley@openmindworks.com](mailto:lesley@openmindworks.com)

Press Contact: Bob Martino +1 203-321-0787, [bob@martinocommunications.com](mailto:bob@martinocommunications.com)

**For Immediate Release**

**SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS TO FIVE COLLEGE STUDENTS SPECIALIZING IN PLASTICS**

CAROL STREAM, IL, U.S.A., July 9, 2019: The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Division has awarded scholarships to four undergraduates and one graduate student to support their continuing studies and active participation in plastics.

The students have been invited to attend the 27<sup>th</sup> SPE Thermoforming Conference®, which will be held September 9-11 at the Wisconsin Center and Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They will be recognized during the Thermoforming Awards Dinner on Tuesday, September 10, at the hotel.

The Scholarship recipients are:

- Samuel Bliesner, Tulane University
- Haven Bontz, Pennsylvania College of Technology
- Antonia Chin, Kettering University
- Lexington Peterson, Pittsburg State University
- Nathan Rader-Edkin, Pennsylvania College of Technology

“The Thermoforming Division received a large volume of scholarship applications this year,” said Matt O’Hagan, SPE Thermoforming Division Student Activities Committee Chair. “These students demonstrate track records of success and a clear interest in and commitment to our industry. At our Conference in Milwaukee, they will have an opportunity to learn more about careers in thermoforming and to network with industry leaders and potential employers.”

Complete information on the Division’s scholarship program and the SPE Thermoforming Conference is available at <https://thermoformingdivision.com> or by contacting Lesley Kyle at 1-914-671-9524 or [lesley@openmindworks.com](mailto:lesley@openmindworks.com).

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THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION is a technical division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, based in Bethel, CT. The Thermoforming Division’s mission is to facilitate the advancement of thermoforming technologies through education, application, promotion and research. The Division hosts an annual educational conference and publishes an award-winning technical journal, *SPE Thermoforming Quarterly*®. The Division has also funded over \$275K in equipment grants and tens of thousands of dollars in undergraduate scholarships since it was first formed. For more information, please visit <http://thermoformingdivision.com>.



## THERMOFORMING

### 2019 SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



**Samuel Bliesner, Tulane University**

Samuel Bliesner received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Florida State University in May 2015. During his undergraduate career, Sam served as a co-op at the DuPont site in Richmond, Virginia, performing research in the Kevlar® business area. This work experience introduced Sam to, and sparked his interest, in the polymers industry.

Upon graduation in 2015, Sam returned to Richmond as a contracted reliability engineer in the DuPont Kevlar® pulp business area. After a short time in industry R&D, Sam decided to pursue his PhD. He is currently beginning his fourth-year of graduate school at Tulane University's Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Under the guidance of Dr. Julie Albert, his research focuses on control of semicrystalline polymer thin film morphology via solvent vapor annealing. His career interests include industry research, intellectual property law, and consulting.



**Haven Bontz, Pennsylvania College of Technology**

Haven is a senior studying for a B.S. in Plastic and Polymer Engineering Technology and expects to graduate in the Fall of 2019. Since May 2017, he has held an internship with Consolidated Container Company in Oil City, Pennsylvania, where he has executed 5s plans and performed process validations.



**Antonia Chin, Kettering University**

Antonia is a senior studying chemical engineering at Kettering University in Flint, Michigan. She is completing her thesis, conducting research on plasticizers. Antonia first encountered the coatings industry through a co-op with BASF where she assessed paint quality on automobiles. After observing the myriad of things that can go wrong with the final product, Antonia wanted to learn more and interned at PPG in the dispersions and pigments evaluation lab. During her time there, she worked on U.S. Department of Energy test models for dispersion

quality using different resin technology. This experience has fueled her desire to become a coatings engineer.

At Kettering, Antonia serves as the vice president of Student Government and president of the International Club, and has held various leadership roles in the Plastics Engineering Club. Last year, Antonia participated in the 2018 SPE Thermoforming Conference RC Car Race Competition.



**Lexington Peterson, Pittsburg State**

Lexington Peterson is a junior at Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kansas. She is a double-major in plastics engineering technology and polymer chemistry.

This summer, Lexington is employed in a sustainability-oriented REU program (Research Experiences for Undergraduates, funded by the National Science Foundation) at the University of Maine. During the school year, Lexington is actively involved in the Society of Plastics Engineers, Society of Women Engineers, American Chemical Society, Honors College Association, Student Government Association, Phi Kappa Phi, and the Student Sustainability Fund Committee. She also works part-time as a lab assistant at the Kansas Polymer Research Center.



**Nathan Rader-Edkin, Pennsylvania College of Technology**

Nathan is a senior studying Plastics and Polymer Engineering Technologies at Pennsylvania College of Technology in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. He currently serves as SPE Student Chapter President, and previously served as secretary. Nathan is also the current chair of SPE's Next Generation Advisory Board (NGAB). He graduated from Pennsylvania College of Technology in 2015 with an Associate of Science Degree in Business Management.

This summer, Nathan is working as a molding intern with the Manufacturing Development Engineering team of the appliance unit at TE Connectivity's headquarters in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Nathan expects to graduate with a B.S. in Plastics and Polymers Engineering Technologies in December 2019.