

**Contact:** Tracy Hartman/Aloft Group, Inc.  
978.462.0002 Ext. 103  
[thartman@aloftgroup.com](mailto:thartman@aloftgroup.com)

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## **SPE UNVEILS 2006 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS WINNERS**

*Awards to be presented in Charlotte at SPE-ANTEC 2006*

**Charlotte, NC** – The Society of Plastic Engineers (SPE) today announced the winners of the 2006 International Awards, who will be presented their awards at SPE-ANTEC 2006 on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 during the “SPE Celebrates!” banquet at the Hilton Charlotte City Center Hotel.

### **2006 International Award Winner**

This year’s winner of SPE’s highest honor, the International Award, goes Dr. Lawrence J. Broutman, who is a consultant to the plastics industry.

Dr. Broutman began his research career in plastics while an undergraduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The research for his undergraduate thesis involved a damage study of a fiber reinforced plastic laminate subjected to thermal cyclic fatigue. His life-long involvement in the field of plastics and reinforced plastics had begun.

Dr. Broutman did pioneering research work related to the characterization of the interface strength between a single fiber and polymer matrix; this work was expanded to include glass fibers as well as boron and graphite. He developed new methods for characterizing interfacial strength, which aided the development of new interface treatments using test methods he designed. He also did pioneering work in the use of scanning electron microscopy as a tool to examine the structure and failure modes of glass fiber reinforced plastics.

Scientists worldwide have been able to use some of the methods Dr. Broutman developed to characterize the fracture toughness of polymers and composites. He designed and built one of the first falling weight instrumented impact machines. His research in residual stresses and surface embrittlement has led to new understandings of the properties of plastics.

Dr. Broutman was a leader in performing research in the field of plastics pipe, especially reinforced plastic pipe. He developed a new test method for plastic piping, which has become an ASTM test and was adopted by the Plastic Pipe Institute for qualifying new materials in the piping industry. His knowledge of this block of technology has advanced the piping industry.

During his career, Dr. Broutman founded L.J. Broutman & Associates (now Bodycote Broutman), providing consulting and laboratory services to the polymer industry. He worked as a university professor and seminar instructor. The holder of multiple patents and author of over 168 technical publications, Dr. Broutman is a Fellow and Distinguished Member of SPE, and served as SPE President in 1977-78.

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**Other 2006 SPE Annual International Awards winners include:**

- **Plastics Engineering/Technology (Fred O. Conley Award)** – The Plastics Engineering/Technology Award, which honors outstanding contributions in plastics engineering and/or technology, is awarded to **Donald C. Paulson**, who is the author of over 40 technical papers and 12 training courses on various types of plastics, is also a seminar instructor, lecturer and consultant to the industry. He first started developing training programs at General Motors Institute, followed by becoming the research manager for New Britain Machine Co., and then developing Control Process Inc. In 1981, Don started Paulson Training Programs to provide training in process control for molding technicians. Several thousand companies and over 80 colleges and universities now use the training courses Don developed.
- **Education Award (in honor of Fred E. Schwab)** – The Education Award, which honors outstanding achievement in plastics education, is awarded to **Timothy E. Weston**, Assistant Professor and Department Head, Plastics and Polymer Engineering Technology, at Pennsylvania College of Technology. Tim founded the Associates Degree program in plastics & polymer technology at Pennsylvania College, which had become one of the most successful academic plastics programs in the U.S. Tim also led the effort to add a Bachelor degree program at Penn College, followed by an ABET accreditation process for the program. He formed a Plastics Manufacturing Center at Penn College. Tim's efforts helped form the Plastics Resources for Educators Program (PREP) that received a \$1 million NSF grant to create and disseminate state-of-the-art teaching tools for the plastics industry and academic institutions. In 2004, Tim began the Penn College Mobile Lab project that educates high school students about plastics processing.
- **Research Award** – The Research Award, which honors outstanding achievement in plastics research, is awarded to **Dr. Anthony J. Bur**, who recently retired from the National Institute of Standards & Technology, where he served as Physicist & Project Leader for Polymer Process Measurements Development. His contributions to the field of polymer processing, specifically process monitoring, span over 20 years. He has done considerable research on the relationships between processing, rheology, structure development and properties of polymers, as well as aiding the industry in improving and optimizing their commercial processes and products. Dr. Bur has published over 80 technical papers and holds seven U.S. patents.
- **Business Management** – The Business Management Award, which honors outstanding achievement in plastics industry business management, is awarded to **Larry Nunnery, Jr.**, Chairman and CEO of Bulk Molding Compounds, Inc. Larry started his career at G.E. Plastics as a salesman, and 12 years later became VP of Sales and Marketing for Alpha Chemical & Plastics, and then joined Oneida Molded Plastics as equity partner and VP of Business Development. In 1989, Larry bought a small compounding business that would become BMC, Inc. The company has since expanded to three U.S. facilities and 5 other facilities around the world. BMC is now the world's leading supplier of bulk molding compounds.

**About SPE**

The Society of Plastics Engineers, Inc. (SPE) is the premier source of peer-reviewed technical information for plastics professionals. Founded in 1942, SPE takes action every day to help companies in the plastics industry succeed by spreading knowledge, strengthening skills and promoting plastics. Employing these vital strategies, SPE has helped the plastics industry thrive for over 60 years. SPE has become the recognized medium of communication among scientists, engineers and technical personnel engaged in the development, conversion and application of plastics. For more information, please visit [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org).