

# Akron Awards Night - 2018

AKRON, OHIO—The Akron Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers handed out awards and scholarships at its May 21 meeting at the Firestone Country Club. Steven D. Blazey, Ph.D., an R&D Engineer for A. Schulman, became the newest member of the Akron Section's Hall of Honor.

Akron Section President Tom McQuaide said Blazey deserves the Hall of Honor recognition for his service to the plastics. This includes product R&D, formulation and production compounding. He holds numerous U.S. Patents and the number of commercialized products are too many to count.

McQuaide told his fellow SPE members that the Akron Section won three awards at ANTEC 2018, held in Orlando, Florida two weeks before the Akron Awards Night meeting. The section won the two national SPE awards: Communications Leader and Pinnacle Gold Award. The student chapter was honored as Outstanding Student Chapter.



Another local award, the William C. Zekan Memorial Service Award, went to Nicole (Brostowitz) Fraifogl, Polymer Engineer. The Zekan award recognizes service to the SPE Akron Section. Nicole has served on the board of directors as chairman of the internet communications. She redesigned and has maintained the Akron Section Website. This past year, as President-elect, she put together the 2018-2019 Technical Program. During her undergraduate days, she served on the board representing the student chapter. She has also been a great help at recent conferences cosponsored by the Akron Section.

The Akron Section Student Leadership Award was given to Marcos Pantoja of the Akron Section Student Chapter. This award is presented to the student who has stepped up to influence fellow students to join and participate in the Society of Plastics Engineers, sustaining the society for the next generation of plastics professionals. Marcos has also been a great help at recent conferences cosponsored by the Akron Section.

Haley Clouser from Rocky River High School was an essay contest winner. Her essay was entitled, "Uses of Plastics". Maddie McLoughlin and Molly Patterson from Holy Trinity Middle School were the essay contest winners for middle school. Their essay was entitled, "Plastic's Usefulness in Society".



# Akron Awards Night - 2018

Special Merit Scholarships were given to eleven students: Nicolette Athans, Jack Bahmer, Tanner Brahler, Erin Christian, Ean Hudspeth, Carter Kuwatch, Kaila Oberhaus, Connor O'Brien Steven Prexta, Victor Vogt and Jasmine Walker.

- The Goodyear Scholarship went to Emma Harmon, who attends the University of Akron.
- The Newell Rubbermaid Scholarship went to Walid Abuhashim, who attends the University of Akron.
- The Jim Steiner Memorial Scholarship was won by Gina Tubo, who attends the University of Akron.
- The Kenneth L. Sharp Memorial Scholarship went to Joseph Rizzo Jr., who attends The Ohio State University.

The Keynote Address was given by Dr. Eric J. Amis, Professor of Polymer Science in the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering at the University of Akron. Dr. Amis has been with the University of Akron since 2014, coming from a 5 year stint at United Technologies Research Center and 15 years with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). He has a special interest in research engagement with industry. His topic was, "Three Stories in Research: Diversity, Unpredictability, Analysis", a primary aim being to shorten lead time for new products.





# Scholarship Winners - 2018

## SPE Special Merit Winners

### Nicolette Athans

Nikki is a 2017 graduate from GlenOak High School. At GlenOak, she was a member of the band, National Honor Society, Junior Polymer Club and Girls Golf Team. Nikki just completed her first year studying Chemistry at Ohio University. With her degree, she would like to pursue a career in pharmaceutical research and development. At Ohio University, she is a part of the Marching 110.



### Jack Bahmer

Jack plans to attend Texas A&M University in the fall to begin his study in the first year of the University engineering program. He will be involved in both the University Honors and Engineering Honors programs while there. Outside of school, Jack enjoys playing and coaching volleyball as well as playing the steel drums as part of a duet. He is thankful and excited for the opportunities ahead.

### Tanner Brahler

Tanner is currently studying at Stark State College and will be completing an associate's degree in pre-engineering and math. This fall he will also be attending Akron University to begin work on his bachelor's degree in engineering. He enjoys spending time with family and friends, riding four wheelers, playing sports and being outside. After schooling, Tanner hopes to find a great place to work and make a career at that company.



### Erin Christian

A member of the National Honor Society (with a 4.49 GPA), the Highland High School Marching and Concert Bands, High School Choir and school theater productions, Erin will find many future opportunities as she continues her education at The Ohio State University to study Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering. She sees her future in designing and producing medical devices that help improve the quality of life for cancer survivors.

# Scholarship Winners - 2018

## SPE Special Merit Winners



### Ean Hudspath

Ean will be attending the University of Akron to major in Mechanical Engineering with a minor in Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering. At GlenOak High School, Ean was involved with the Science Club, the GlenOak Junior Polymer Ambassadors (President), High School Choir and Science Olympiad. He will be a member of the Emerging Leaders Program at UA, and plans to be involved in some design teams. Ean would like to thank his family for sticking beside his crazy science decisions, God for helping him see the light at the end and the final goal, all of his teachers in high school and all of the connections he has made with outside sources.

### Carter Kuwatch

Carter is a deserving candidate for the Special Merit Award. During his time at Green High School, he held a leadership role in the Junior ROTC program and volunteered for several years with the Ohio Fire Safety Coalition, assisting with their annual fundraising event. He will attend the University of Akron, pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering. He has secured a summer position at a local plastics producer, and is busy expanding his knowledge of polymer engineering. Carter one day hopes to own his own business in the plastics field.



### Kaila Oberhaus

Kaila attended Highland High School where she has earned many accolades, including Class Officer, induction into the National Honor Society, Buckeye Girls State, High School Choir and letters in multiple sports. Kaila will attend The Ohio State University and major in Chemical Engineering and Biochemistry, and hopes to use her skills to improve pharmaceutical products.

### Connor O'Brien

Connor is a senior at Virginia Polytechnic Institute majoring in Computer Engineering. He is a member of numerous professional societies, including SPE, and a member of the Whitewater Kayak Club at Virginia Tech. This year, Connor and his team earned third place in the International AutoDrive Competition, where students are tasked with developing a fully autonomous vehicle. He also interned with the United States Army Communications-Electronics Research, Development and Engineering Center (CERDEC) this past summer, and will be returning for another internship in a few weeks.



# Scholarship Winners - 2018

## SPE Special Merit Winners

### Steven Prexta

Steven graduated from Green High School in 2017. He has completed his first year of college at The Ohio State University, with a major in Mechanical Engineering. Last summer he worked as an intern at Bridgestone-Firestone and this summer he is continuing his interest in tires with an internship at Goodyear (in their tread and cavity engineering department). Steven, who is an Eagle Scout, also loves travelling and visiting the national parks.



### Victor Vogt

Victor Vogt is a high school senior and will be studying chemical engineering at Texas A&M University in the fall. He has participated in polymer research at the University of Akron and will be working as an intern at Bridgestone Americas Technical Center this summer. Victor enjoys running cross-country and has been a part of his school's Academic Challenge and Science Olympiad teams.



### Jasmine Walker

Jasmine C. Walker is a junior attending Central State University pursuing her Environmental Engineering degree. She has maintained a cumulative GPA of a 3.47 during her recent semester at the university. Beyond her academics, she is currently the active vice president of National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), Miss College of Science and Engineering, the previous president of Minorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences, and a Thurgood Marshall Walmart mentor to first generation college students. In the future, she hopes to attend graduate school in hopes of obtaining her Master's in Environmental Engineering or Environmental Sciences.





# Scholarship Winners - 2018



## Goodyear Corporation Scholarship Winner - *Emma Harmon*

Emma is a freshman at the University of Akron studying Chemical Engineering. She has been heavily involved in Residence Life and Housing this year as part of the Emerging Leaders, and she has served as the Community Service Director for Residence Hall Council. Additionally, she is the Community Service Chair for Delight, which is a women's ministry on campus. Through these positions, she has raised money for Relay for Life and The National MS Society, and she has worked with recovering victims of human trafficking through Rahab Ministries. This year she was awarded the Freshman of the Year award upon being inducted into the Sigma Lambda, a residence hall honorary, the Outstanding Freshman Award from the Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Department, and was awarded membership to the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

## Newell/Rubbermaid Corporation Scholarship Winner - *Walid Abuhashim*

Walid studies Biomechanics/Biomaterials & Tissue at the University of Akron. He performs research on the iris cell nucleus for the Biomedical Engineering Department. He plans to present his abstract at the 2019 Biomedical Engineering Society Conference. Walid recently joined a University of Akron lab that focuses on the biomechanics of the Praying Mantis' strike. In his spare time, he leads the Biomedical Engineering Design Team at the University of Akron in developing an assistive device for individuals with cerebral palsy dystonia. Walid is also the Vice President of the Muslim Students Association and helps organize interfaith events. He currently holds a GPA of 4.0. He aspires to attend The University of Akron's Polymer Engineering Graduate School so he may use his engineering degree to conduct research, earn patents and own his start up business.



## Jim Steiner Memorial Scholarship - *Gina Tubo*

Gina is a 2016 graduate of North Canton Hoover High School and attends The University of Akron. She is pursuing an undergraduate degree in biology with a minor in chemistry. Gina has displayed academic excellence while at Akron being named to both the President's and Dean's list. Following the completion of her undergraduate education, Gina plans to attend medical school at Northeast Ohio Medical University.



## Kenneth L. Sharp Memorial Scholarship - *Joseph Rizzo, Jr.*

Joseph is a second-year student at the Ohio State University. He is a member of the J. Michael Dunn Sport and Wellness Scholars program and a member of the leadership council for this group. He is vice president of the Exercise is Medicine Club and is starting a club for pre-medicine students. Additionally, he is part of the ALDPES class honorary and the National Society of Leadership and Success organization. Joseph would like to attend medical school and become a surgeon. He would like to improve the field of medicine by integrating polymer science and engineering into surgical equipment, such as grafts and prosthetics.





# May Awards Night Highlights

