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DIVISION

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Message From The Chair



Welcome to the inaugural newsletter of the 2023 – 2024 Operation Year for the Mold Technologies Division.

It has been quite busy these last months, and we have a fair amount to catch up on...

In May, we held division board elections, and I am pleased to announce that we have a truly international team of leaders. Our division elected the following to 3-year terms of service:

Mr. Joe Karpinski - Joe is the Tooling Manager for Truck-Lite Co., LLC, in Erie, Pennsylvania. He holds a Master's Degree in Education (sorry Joe I forgot the official title). His passion is in educating new members of the industry and he has accepted the role of Education Chair of the Division for the coming term.

Mr. Craig Crossley - Craig is a graduate of U-MASS Lowell with a degree in Plastics Engineering. He is employed by Barnes Group as a sales engineer. Craig is looking forward to a role with the division that will allow him to expand his network and support our industry. I am hoping that he will accept a role in leadership as the Inter-Society Liaison to help meet my initiative for the year (more on that in a moment).

Mr. Harindranath “Hari” Sharma - Hari is a driven mechanical engineer from India. He also holds a Master of Engineering Degree in Mold – Tooling Design and Engineering. Hari's commitment to the board includes joining meetings in the middle of the night as he is 15 hours ahead of the US and out board meetings. His focus of service is on the International Committee (not hard to figure that one out).

Mr. Cesar Flores - Cesar joins our board from Latin America. Based in Mexico, Cesar holds a Master Mold Maker Certificate from the Ontario Tradesmen Cabinet. He has a CAD/CAM Certificate from George Brown College. A lifelong learner and applier of technology, Cesar has assumed the role of Internet Chair.

Mr. Andrew “Andy” Hartmann - Andy joins our leadership team from Progressive Components. He is a regional application/sales engineer based in Wisconsin. Andy has a “Can-Do” attitude and is reviewing options on where to jump into a leadership role.

The preceding are the new members of the board. We have several returning members as well:

Wes Stephens: Wes has been our division Secretary for the past two years. He has agreed to stay in that role through the 2023 – 2024 Operating Year. Between you and me, this is the most active role on the board, and Wes is fastidious in taking the notes of every meeting and publishing them so that the division can see what is happening within the leadership...

Mr. John Berg: John is returning to the “Thankless” task of Newsletter Editor. He is the one that makes this publication possible. John is the Business Development Director at Dynamic Tool Corporation in Menomonee Falls, WI. John has served the division for the past 4+ years and continues to do a great job.

(Continued on Page 5)

Editor's Commentary

– *Berg's Eye View*



I very much enjoyed the experience of attending and participating in the MoldMaking & Molding Conference held in Minneapolis on the 29th and 30th of August. Two of our favorite magazines, MoldMaking Technology, and its partner publication (through Gardner Business Media), Plastics Technology, have a great performance history in creating events that foster and encourage collaboration, learning, and sharing. For me, this event was especially valuable because of the range of subject matter and the diversity of the presenters and their companies.

While the presentations and panel discussions are compelling, I get tremendous inspiration from direct engagement with other speakers and attendees during the networking breaks and events. The chance to meet and exchange ideas and challenges with shops in other geographic regions and of smaller / similar / larger size than my employer, Dynamic Tool Corporation, is always enlightening and much appreciated. Our mold-making community leaders continue to share their best practices and roadmaps for continuous improvement. While our shops might compete at some levels with some mutual customers, there are simply too many good reasons to be open-minded and engaging. Nobody is giving away secrets or shortcuts to success – because there are none.

If it's been a few years since you've attended a technical / educational event, make it a point to do so in the next year. If you've never done so, I assure you that if you go and are willing to share and learn, it will be worth your while. And bring some of your new talent with you – get the next generation of toolmakers and design engineers on the path to support our industry.

I must also point out the SERIOUS omission from Scott Peters' Message from the Chair. He very nicely introduces the new board members and the existing members who will continue their roles, thanking everyone for their commitment – but he did not mention himself, so I will.

You'd be hard-pressed to find an individual who cares as much for what our industry, our division and the SPE itself is, does, and aspires to be. Scott is always at the ready to help, to introduce, to remind, and to make things happen. His optimism and willingness to engage and to provide value is contagious and ever so important. In the four years I've hung out with and worked with the SPE MTD, Mr. Peters is always at the ready, always reliable, and always has a get-it-done attitude.

Thank you, Scott Peters!

John Berg
Mold Technologies Division Newsletter Editor
Dynamic Tool Corporation



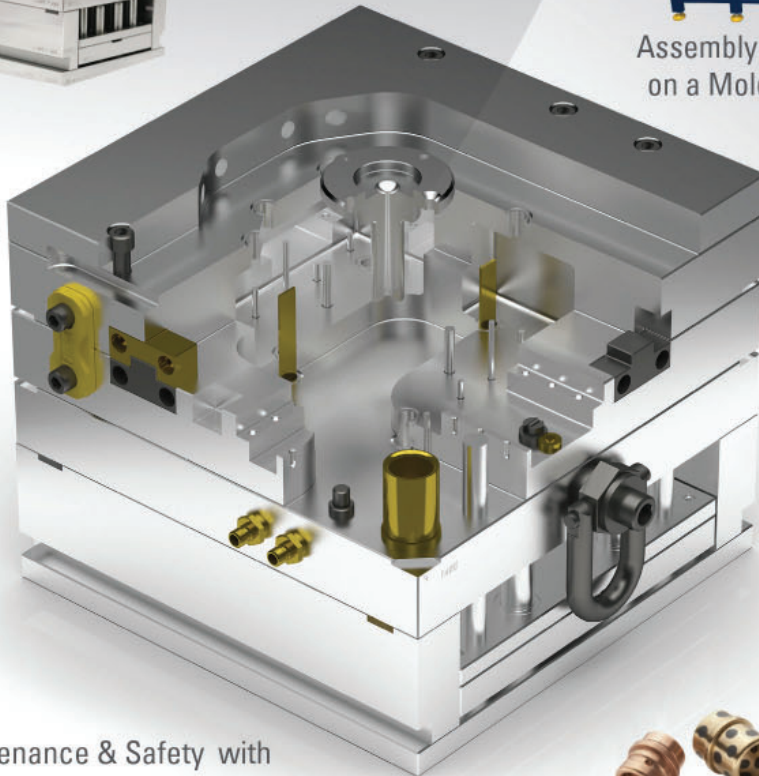
What do you call a table of 15 guys from the plastics industry enjoying a round of afterdinner drinks on the first day of an educational seminar? Turns out, there are a number of things you can call them, but quiet and reserved ain't on that list. Some of us have known each other for many years and some of us met for the very first time at the MMT Conference. You can tell by the smiles that we were enjoying ourselves and there were plenty of stories to swap and tales to tell. And everyone left with a few new cards in their network of industry contacts.



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Mr. Richard Evans: Richard is the owner of Reaction Plastics in North Carolina. He has a passion to advance the industry through apprenticeship training and a drive to succeed. This is Richard's second 3-year term on the board. He is currently serving as the Chair Elect of the division.

It is without hesitation that I say nothing would be happening in our division without the personal and professional contributions of these individuals. They all sacrifice time away from their families and stretch their work commitments to help in meeting the over-arching objective of the division "We exist to foster growth in the mold making and design professions through leadership, training, and the dissemination of technical data." Thank you all!

Now for 2023 – 2024 goals and objectives... You may have noticed that our LinkedIn Page – [linkedin.com/company/spe-mold-technologies-division](https://www.linkedin.com/company/spe-mold-technologies-division) is very active. I have been posting and reposting information from within the US – SPE – and International Societies. You may wonder "What is the objective of all of this posting and reposting?" Well let me tell you! Our goal for 2023 – 2024 and beyond is to find ways to work "in concert" with other trade and technical societies linked to plastics and molds.

It is my belief that we, all of us, have areas of special interest and skills along with areas of overlapping interest. By identifying our special abilities, those unique to each of our individual organizations, and the areas of overlap, we can find ways to improve the industry without "Stepping on each other's membership toes."

It sounds simple, and it may be... but what is hard, or at least difficult, is doing the "Gap Analysis" and then finding ways to work together. This will take a strong leader in two areas – the International Committee and Inter-Society Liaison Committee. Because we are an International Organization, we must consider other organizations outside of the US and North America. Because we have a charter to foster the development of the industry through training, leadership, and the dissemination of technical data we need to ensure that we meet those goals across multiple organizations. Lofty goals, perhaps! Achievable goals, maybe! Worthy of our efforts, ABSOLUTELY!

Our Secondary Objective is two-fold. Part A is the continuation of Track the Apprentice V-1.0. Taylor and the team at CDM Tool in Hartford, WI have provided a great start and we want to learn more as she progresses on her apprenticeship journey. Part B is the addition of a second Track the Apprentice V-2.0. This is an opportunity for a company to submit their apprentice as a candidate for a video-blog showing where they are and where they are headed, and who is supporting them and enabling their success in our industry.

I must warn you; this is a lot of work. It takes an apprentice that is comfortable in front of a camera and is comfortable in their "own skin." We want to use these apprentices to show the world that apprenticeships work and that our shops aren't some dungeons of a workplace. Both are crucial to the furtherance of our industry around the globe. We also hope that our apprentices will be able to attend NPE 2024 and meet the industry that has served us all so well!

I look forward to a great year ahead and thank you, to our valued members, for your support! If you have any comments or concerns, please reach out to me at Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com

Until next time, Have a great rest of the year and very Happy Holidays!

Scott Peters
Division Chair 2022 – 2024
President, Molded Marketing LLC



2024 SPE MTD Fall Golf Tournament Promoting Education

Kerry Kanbara - MTD Social Chair

This special tournament will support the Mold Technologies Division's mission to sponsor educational programs to facilitate new professionals in the mold making industry. This will be accomplished by educating young students about the potential of a career in the mold making industry: apprenticeships, internships, and will include free SPE Mold Technology memberships to participating students. All proceeds from these events will be used in the Mold Technologies Division Education Fund to support Tooling Engineering Education as well as Tool Making Education and the furtherance of our industry.

The event will be held on September 19, 2024, at Cross Creek Golf Club, Temecula, California. The course is situated in the middle of Southern California's wine region. A challenging, scenic Arthur Hills design - with no homes around the course. The semi-private golf course traverses over rolling terrain with beautiful hillside views, creeks and plenty of mature sycamore and oak trees. The tournament will feature a scramble format. There will be awards for lowest net score for a foursome, longest drive (ladies and gentlemen), and closest-to-the-pin on one of the par 3 holes.

We are also hosting a wine tasting on September 18, the day prior to the golf event. It is a luncheon for those who are traveling in, or those who love wine, scheduled for

noon to about 3 PM. This gathering is to hook up with friends and colleagues prior to the tournament. We will visit Churon Winery, where esteemed Winemaker Benny Rodriguez has produced numerous medal-winning wines for Churon. Seventeen wines are available in the generous tasting space, including the full range of California varietals such as Syrah, Pinot Grigio, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon and Chardonnay, as well as dessert wines like sherry, port, and a sweet orange Muscat. The event includes samples of varietal wines, with descriptions of their characteristics, a light lunch, and a keynote speaker. This will allow you to relax and hook up with friends and colleagues and explore the valley. You may want to spend the evening at one of the two nearby casinos.

There are opportunities for Tee Sponsors, Green Sponsors and Food and Beverage Sponsorships. In addition, we are looking for "Door Prize" sponsors for Longest Drive in the Fairway - Shortest Drive in the Fairway and Closest to the Pin on a Par 3... The venue(s) look amazing and what better time of the year to get together with colleagues and friends to build relationships. Please reserve the date - September 18, 2024, for the Wine Tasting and September 19, 2024, for our Golf Tournament. You can register for both events, or any one of them individually. We hope to see you there - it will be an extraordinarily good time!



Cross Creek Golf Club, Temecula, California



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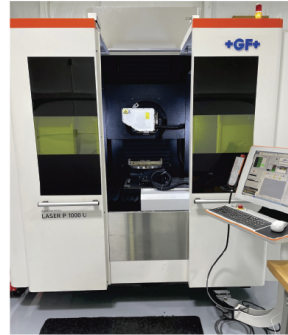


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On Tour with the Division Chair

Eifel Mold and Engineering

On September 27th, I had the privilege of joining the team at Eifel Mold and Engineering as they celebrated their 50th Year in Business.

50-Years is a major milestone for any company, but for a mold shop it is a momentous occasion!

Eifel is a company that has changed with the times. When they first opened in February of 1973, then President, Josef Hecker, brought his artisan craftsmanship and business plans from his hometown of Kreuzau, Germany, to Fraser, Michigan. He worked in the automotive industry for more than 15 years developing relationships that would pay dividends for the new Eifel Pattern & Model Company.

The industry changed from models and patterns to CAD/CAM and CNC controlled machines in the mid-1980's. It wasn't as if someone threw a switch and models/patterns were suddenly gone and CNC magically appeared – but that was the time when Joe's son Richard "Rick" joined the team. During that period, they invested in new technologies and Rick lead the charge to move into becoming a full Mold Engineering and Manufacturing firm, and a force to be reckoned with!



The new technologies brought with them new customers, new opportunities, and a hunger for capital re-investment. Over the 1990's, the Heckers invested \$3,000,000 dollars into emerging and leading technologies, with a single year investment of \$700,000 in 1999. In 2000 the company was renamed, and reborn as Eifel Inc. Rick completed the buy-out of the business and took the reigns as President / CEO in that same year.

By 2003 the company had achieved ISO-9001 Certification, was building molds from proto-type to full production and maintained some crucial traits. Those traits are "Old-World Craftsmanship" with "Familial Pride in Quality" and "New Technologies." Clearly a winning combination when instilled throughout the organization.

It was during that time that Rick determined that to be successful, the company needed to make the "People – Process – Technology" approach to business and project management a focal point of the company. According to Rick, "This

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process existed under my father's leadership. However, now we need to form them into the nucleus of our business operations. Within a good business model, each of these areas should be as important to the program as the others. By putting the best people in place and supporting their growth through rigorous training processes and giving them the proper technology, you have a winning equation in the marketplace."

Throughout the Early 2000's and into the 2010's Rick committed himself to the furtherance of the company. He added his General Manager, Michael Nye, to the leadership team. And of course, Rick and his wife Maria spent countless hours leading the business into the modern engineering and manufacturing concern that is Eifel Mold & Engineering.

As we celebrated the company's 50-year mark, it was evident that the entire leadership and staff of Eifel Mold & Engineering are proud of their achievements. With new technology still being added, Eifel is ready to take on the most daunting of projects. The company now boasts multiple 5-Axis Machining Centers, including a newly installed Hermle C-650 HS with "Rapid Pallet Change" system. This machine is capable of setting up multiple work pieces (up to 6) and running fully automatic 24 x 7. From 1200 Kg to 3600 Kg single blocks, the machine is a true work of modern art and brings new levels of capability to the Eifel offering. This is a true game changer in striving to achieve the corporate goal of "Being the quickest from Concept to Completion." Add to the Hermle machines the installation of their Nissei 360 Ton High Performance Molding Machine and Eifel is ready for Short Run Production and/or Pre-Shipment Molding Qualifications on most projects.

Going forward there is a renewed emphasis on the PPT (People – Process – Technology) Approach to program



**50 Years of
Serving the
Plastics
Industry**

management. Rick explains, "We are moving faster and faster and that requires more up-front understanding of the scope of work. We begin our internal DFM studies as soon as possible, sometimes even during the Quotation Review Phase. We need to ensure that the project is achievable in the time allotted with the staff and equipment available and will meet all requirements for quality and costing. If we miss any of those, we simply don't have time to recover! And that puts our customers and our company in a bad position."

Setting a course for the future, Maria and Rick encourage team members to grow their skill bases and expand their horizons. Rick can be found at various area high schools and vocational technical community colleges on career days sharing the opportunities for tool makers and designers. At the same time, Apprenticeship Coordinator Ann Sulkowski is working with the Michigan Department of Labor to ensure that all Apprentices at Eifel Mold & Engineering are receiving the proper training to be called Mold Makers and Mold Designers.

Not satisfied with just taking care of business, Rick, Maria and the team donate food and time to area food banks ensuring that underprivileged folk have a warm meal. Truly, Eifel gives back to the community in multiple ways.

It was great to celebrate with Rick, Maria, son Eric (who is now being groomed for 3rd generation leadership), Michael, and the team. In true German flair, the party would not have been complete without a few biers, and some great bratwurst, schnitzel and of course Kartoffelsalat (German potato salad).

Our hearty Congratulations to Rick and his Team on this occasion and we look forward to the next 50-Years at least.

For more information about Eifel Mold and Engineering and the Apprenticeship initiatives please contact Rick Hecker at Rick.Hecker@Eifel-Inc.com or visit www.eifel-inc.com.

PROGRESSIVE COMPONENTS

Progressive Releases New Bluetooth Cve Monitor

Progressive Components (Wauconda, IL) announces the release of the new Cve Monitor® RT, the company's real-time mold monitor that tracks tool activity and communicates via Bluetooth® access to ProFile®, a web and mobile-based application (app). The Cve Monitor RT allows users to view the tool's cycle count and other data on the device, provides Bluetooth access to information utilizing the ProFile app, and, with additional hardware, can send real-time data to the ProFile app in the cloud for global access.

A further advancement of Progressive's Monitoring platform, the Cve Monitor RT now operates wirelessly to route data directly from the tool to the Gateway and off to the cloud, where customers can review the information in the ProFile Real-Time Asset Management System.

Every device is manufactured with a QR code and unique serialization for assignment to a specific tool via the ProFile System. This provides a convenient file-sharing method for mold makers to share documents, prints, and other information with customers, and molders and OEMs that want to view KPIs globally can do so with easier access.

Additional benefits and features include:

- Water-resistant, replaceable batteries, ingress protection rating of IP52, and maximum operating temperature of 190°F (90°C)
- RT Monitor can be used on the outside of a tool or not on a tool at all. Utilizing a cable from a PLC or magnetic Reed Switch, it can route the data through the Cve to the Gateway, where information can be accessed in the ProFile app without any actuation of the plunger. This makes it ideal for high-heat applications or stamping dies (up to 1000 punches per minute).

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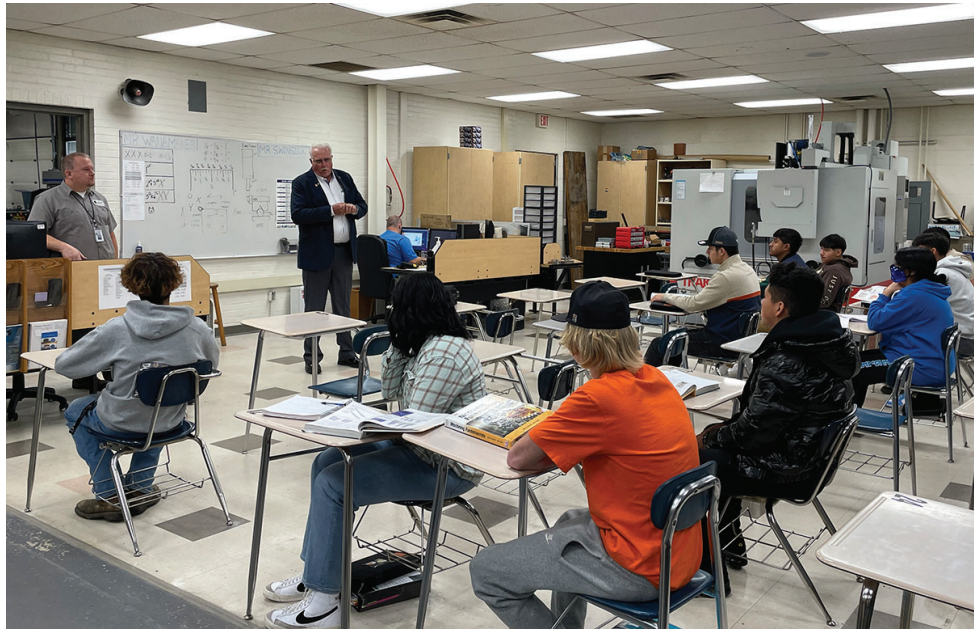
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Sturgis High School

In Mid-October, I visited two of our “recipient” training centers to review their programs, meet the students, and further reinforce our commitment to the “Training and Development of Future Mold Makers/Mold Designers and Mold Repair Technicians through-out the Plastics Industry.” The following are overviews of both programs and some highlights of my visits.

On Wednesday, October 11th, I had the privilege of meeting the students at Sturgis High School’s CTE (Career & Technical Education) “Trojan Manufacturing Program” and to discuss the Mold Maker of the Year award that had been presented to Patrick Roussey of Mayer Tool & Engineering. Part of the Mold Maker of the Year Award includes an honorarium that the recipient passes on to a training center of their choice. The only caveat is that the training center is involved in a core discipline of Precision Metal Working, Mold Making, Mold Design, Mold Repair, or Plastics Technologies.



Pat designated that the HASCO AMERICA Mold Maker of the Year stipends, \$1000.00, be contributed to the CTE Trojan Manufacturing Program at Sturgis High School – Sturgis, MI. The Trojan Manufacturing initiative is named after the high school mascot. The presentation occurred prior to my arrival and was already being used in the program.

Sturgis Manufacturing is supported heavily by local industry, including Mayer Tool & Engineering. The support includes Manufacturing Day tours, one on one discussions with students, part-time and full-time employment, and donations of equipment and supplies.

Mayer Tool and Engineering (Pat’s company) currently has 2 apprentices from the program. The first apprentice has completed his high school work and the second is in his senior year in the program. During my discourse at the training center, I was encouraged by the engagement of the students in their program.

What I found on my arrival at Sturgis High School is a well-equipped metals shop that covers almost all aspects of the precision machining trades. If there are any technologies / machining processes to be added, they would be Wire and Sinker EDM, and Additive Manufacturing / 3D Print. That said, Program Instructor Jeff Wanamaker is engaged with his students. He is ensuring that each one receives the training, both hands-on and related theory, to be successful as a Precision Machinist or CNC Operator and that they have a bright future in the manufacturing industry.

Jeff, himself a journey-level trades practitioner, explained that the program doesn’t start in 11th grade as is traditional for “Vo-Tech” (Vocational / Technical) training. Trojan Manufacturing starts with a general introductory course as soon as 9th grade, where students dip their toes into the world of manufacturing and gain a sense of what can be a great career. By the time they reach 11th grade, the students have a fairly clear understanding of what is required and the opportunities that are ahead.

It is clear that Sturgis High School students don't just get a cursory overview of the needs and mechanics of work in the trades - they are fully immersed in it! While on site, one student was in the process of disassembling a Kurtz vice to determine why it was binding and hoping to repair it. Find a related theory program that teaches those skills, and you have a great program.

I had an opportunity to address the entire class and to share my excitement for their futures in the trades. I also shared some of my career path as an example of where they may go in the industry. "Just because you are an Apprentice Machinist or Mold Maker today, that doesn't tie your hands or chain you to a specific role! Mr. Roussey is a graduate from a local high school, he completed an Apprenticeship, and today he is honored as the SPE Mold Maker of the Year. And if that isn't enough, he owns his own company. The sky is the limit – it is all what you make it and how you apply the lessons learned that will determine what your career yields."

One of the students, also a Pre-Apprentice at Mayer Tool, asked some excellent questions and gave an insight into the career planning that he is doing. Hearing that I had served in the US Marine Corps, he asked, "Do you think that the Marine Corps provided any good foundation to your apprenticeship as a Mold Maker/Mold Designer?" My response, a resounding "Absolutely."

Another of his questions was around going to college or taking an apprenticeship and what he might accomplish on either track. I reassured him that if he were to take the Apprenticeship Track, he should be able to convert the related theory to an associate degree in one of the manufacturing technologies. And that he might consider taking the next step to earn a Bachelor of Science in an engineering discipline while being able to pay for his advanced degree through his career as a Mold Maker or Precision Machinist. In any case, with the track he is on and with the questions he is asking, it indicates to me he is a young person with a bright future ahead!

For more information about the CTE Sturgis Manufacturing Program, please contact Jeffrey Wanamaker at jwanamaker@sturgisps.org.

Mayer Tool & Engineering



Patrick and Tyler Roussey

Of course, visiting the school is only part of the equation. While in Sturgis I took the opportunity to sit down with Pat and his leadership team to talk about how things work at Mayer Tool. I toured the plant and saw that they go beyond mold making and into production molding within the four walls of the operations. Having molding and mold making in the same space really allows the team to gain a deeper understanding of what happens inside a mold and how one misstep or one "Field Engineering Change" can really impact the overall success of the project.

It is clear to me that the Apprentices at Mayer Tool & Engineering gain a well-rounded skill set as they receive training in all areas of the manufacturing process. Starting from day one, an apprentice mold maker is given tasks suitable to their experience and a Lead Person to guide them along the development path. Over the course of 8,000 labor hours (overtime does not apply) the apprentice moves from machining area to machining area gaining skills

in interpreting drawings, making appropriate set-ups, and machining mold components. All of this happens in conjunction with additional related theory course work at a local community college and with full registration at the Michigan Department of Labor and the US Department of Labor. When an apprenticeship is completed at Mayer Tool, the skill set is present that the Mold Maker may wear their title proudly in industry.

Being a mold maker turned owner, Pat is keenly aware of the needs of the industry and of the skillset he and his leadership must instill in every Mold Making or Mold Design Apprentice. To hear Pat tell it, “I started at Mayer Tool as an apprentice, I learned my craft, and I now own the company that has provided such a great living for myself and all my colleagues. We now need to ensure that we are providing those opportunities for the apprentices that follow.” The SPE Mold Technologies Division is proud to have selected Pat as Mold Maker of the Year 2023 and can see that he is adding value to his team and the community around him every day!



For additional information please contact Patrick Roussey at patroussey@mayertool.net www.mayertool.net. THANK YOU to the team at HASCO AMERICA for their continued, and generous support of the Mold Maker of the Year Award. www.hasco.com

Northwest State Community College

On Thursday the 12th I made my way from Sturgis to Archbold, Ohio, where I met with the team at Northwest State Community College and Charles “Chuck” Heitmeyer, the 2023 Mold Designer of the Year. Our purpose in meeting at the school was to make the presentation of the PROGRESSIVE Mold Designer of the Year Honorarium.

Like the HASCO presentation the PROGRESSIVE COMPONENTS award recognizes the SPE Mold Technologies Division Mold Designer of the Year and presents a \$1,000.00 Honorarium in the recipient’s name to the training center of their choice. This year our Mold Designer of the Year is Charles “Chuck” Heitmeyer from Allied Moulded Products in Bryan, OH. Chuck selected the Plastics Technology Program at Northwest State Community College to be the recipient of the honorarium.

Chuck is the Senior Mold Tooling Engineer at Allied Moulded and is responsible for tooling programs and the development of the Junior Tooling Engineers within the organization. Allied Moulded is a family run business that has made Bryan home since starting in business some 65-years ago. The company produces electrical enclosures for industrial and residential use. When it comes to molding, they cover Thermoplastic, Thermoset Compression and Thermoset Injection. That means as a Mold Designer/Tooling Engineer, Chuck covers at least 3 different disciplines of the industry. That is quite an accomplishment.

On entering Northwest State, it is easy to see why they were selected to receive the honorarium. The term “Junior College” does not apply here. Northwest State Community College exemplifies “Community Based Education.” The school offers associate level degrees in Manufacturing Engineering Technology, Certificate programs in sub-sectors such as Plastics Manufacturing Technology and Industrial Robotics.

The Plastics Lab sports a brand-new Boy Injection Molding Machine, which is being readied for the next cohort to start in the program. STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) Instructor Colin Doolittle, cdoolittle@northweststate.edu, is a seasoned professional. He spent years in industry before moving over to the educational role. He brings not only the theory but also the practical to his classes. Alongside Colin is Dan Burklo, MSE, PhD. Dan serves the school as the Vice President of Academics. Both Colin and Dan are very proud of their program, and with good reason.

Adding to the new molding machine, the Robotics Lab is well equipped with FANUC 3 – 4 and 6-Axis Robots. In addition, the students have an opportunity to create their own “Pick and Place” cells as part of the program. Speaking of *Programs* we all know that robots require programs, right? Well Northwest State offers programming courses on both Simens and Rockwell-Automation PLCs. These industry standards are employed to ensure that the students are ready to meet the demands of the local industry base.



Left to Right: Scott Peters, Chuck Heitmeyer – 2023 Mold Designer of the Year, Dan Burklo – VP Academics, and Colin Doolittle – STEM Instructor Plastics Program, of Northwest State Community College.

When you enter the Machining Area, the first thing to notice is that there is a lab chocked full of manual mills, lathes, and surface grinders. This is the starting point for the students. From there, the program moves into the CNC area where they have a number of HAAS CNC Mills and Lathes to ensure a well-rounded education. Understanding that not everyone can have their own CNC, HAAS outfitted the program with “stand-alone” controls that replicate those on the machine tools. The students are able to load and simulate program operations through the stand-alone units thus giving direct feedback on the programs used in machining.

The computer design area is another “First-Class” environment employing the latest in Solidworks and Auto-Cad software. For CNC Program Generation, Master CAM software drives the machine tools. From start to finish, Northwest State Community College is on par with any 4-Year Program and is focused on meeting the needs of local industry.

One interesting point that I noted is that the student body has some of the lowest per credit hour charges in collegiate America. This is because so many of the local support companies are providing scholarships to their team members and are endowing the school to provide additional scholarships. This is a fantastic partnership between Industry and Education. It should be used as a model for similar efforts across both academia and manufacturing. It is truly a Win-Win for all involved.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Why the MTD is Hosting a Golf Tournament and the Overall Value of Social Events for our Industry

Kerry Kanbara - MTD Social Chair

The SPE has long been a spokesperson and ambassador for the plastic industry. Social events, like our Fall 2024 Gold Tournament, put faces on the industry and promote a strong bond within the organization. These periodic socialization opportunities within the division foster a more cohesive group identity - which is a very strong support mechanism to move forward in improving the craft for all mold makers and processing companies.

This cross-pollination of the mold making community fosters the spreading of new ideas and processes which improve the craft. New professionals will be able to learn from the old masters, and the old masters will enjoy the fresh perspective and problem-solving energy of the new wave of mold makers, design engineers, project managers, and programmers.

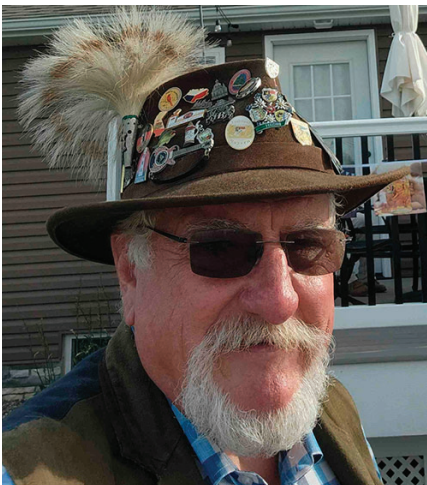
Social events are important to reward members for their interest in improving and evolving our trade with new technical inputs, new tooling concepts, and new machining processes. These social events are also a powerful fund-raising tool to funnel resources to educational projects which encourage new mold makers. The experience of meeting and spending time with mold making industry veterans may direct intelligent high school students towards a mold making career. To keep our industry strong and always progressing, we need to see events like our golf outing as not only a networking event, but also an opportunity to recruit bright new talent.

On Tour with the Division Chair

(Continued from Page 14)

We want to thank Charles for his leadership in selecting the Plastics Program at Northwest State and introducing us to such a fantastic program.

For additional information about the programs at Northwest State Community College, please reach out to dburklo@northweststate.edu or cdoolittle@northweststate.edu or visit www.northweststate.edu. For additional information about Charles “Chuck” Heitmeyer please contact him at cheitmeyer@alliedmoulded.com or visit www.alliedmoulded.com



We also off a heartfelt thanks to PROGRESSIVE COMPONENTS INC for their support of this award and the industry in general. Remember to look for PROGRESSIVE at www.procomps.com for your mold component needs.

With companies like HASCO, PROGRESSIVE and MOLDTRAX supporting our industry, and people like Patrick Roussey, Charles Heitmeyer and John Demakis (Mold Repair Person of the Year 2023) and educational facilities like these supporting our industry, we truly have a very bright future.

Until my next travel log –
Scott!

HASCO

Enabling with System.

High Corrosion Resistance – HASCO Stainless Steel Sealing Plugs

When designing the cooling system of an injection molding tool, sealing plugs are used for diverting flows within the temperature control system and for sealing drilled cooling holes.

Ideal for use in medical and clean-room technology

The new HASCO sealing plugs Z9425/.../VA of stainless steel are particularly suitable for use in clean rooms, for example in medical technology. They allow reliable cooling of injection molding tools when using hot or cold water or heat transfer oil. The sealing plugs are temperature-resistant up to 180 °C and have excellent corrosion resistance. Internal pressures in the cooling system of up to 10 bar can be achieved.

Simple assembly through Torx screw

The high-quality stainless steel 1.4305 guarantees reliable and durable cooling applications. Due to the Torx geometry of the assembly screw, the plugs are easy to assemble, and the torque is reliably transmitted without any damage to the inner profile. Whereas assembly with horizontal drilled cooling holes can be carried out easily by hand. It is advisable with vertical cooling holes to slightly increase the size of the sealing plug before mounting it by screwing in the Torx screw and exploiting the friction with the wall of the drilled hole. This enables controlled positioning even with vertical installations.

New HASCO Hexagon Socket Pipe Plugs of Brass and Stainless Steel

For the reliable sealing of cooling drill holes in injection molding tools, use is generally made of socket pipe plugs.

Reliable sealing of the thread

The new HASCO headed hexagon socket pipe plugs Z 9410/... are available made of either brass with a special integrated FKM O-ring or a high-temperature type of stainless steel. The O-ring, which, in the HT variant, consists of a highly temperature-resistant fluorinated rubber material, guarantees reliable sealing of the drilled cooling holes – also without any additional sealing of the thread.

Production stoppages due to leakages are minimized.

Both socket pipe plugs are suitable for the reliable cooling of injection molding tools with hot or cold water or heat transfer oil. The low compression set allows optimum application, whereby production outages due to leakages are significantly reduced. They are easy to assemble and dismantle.



Whereas socket pipe plug Z 9410/... is made of the high-quality brass material 2.0401 for temperatures up to 120 °C with water and oil, the maximum application temperature for the HT version made of high-quality stainless steel 1.4305 with special high-temperature O-rings is 180 °C for water and 220 °C for oil. They guarantee a reliable seal even with large temperature differences.

HT pipe plugs from HASCO are thus ideally suitable for applications in medical and clean-room technology.



SHOP TALK

Updates from Member Shops

Mold Surface Textures, Inc.

Mold Surface Textures, Inc. (MST, Inc.) is entering its 20th year in business in a big way. Founded in 2004, MST had as a core mission the ability to provide surface texturing, polishing and texture repairs in the Upper Great Lakes region for Molds and Embossing Rolls. That mission has remained a constant allowing the service offering continued growth. Today, MST Customers rely on the company for:

- In-House and On-Site Texture Repair
- In-House Mold Repair
- Mold Polishing to Class A-3 Diamond Finish
- Mold Texturing
- Photo-Etch
- Laser
- Embossing Roll Texturing
- Non-Contact Texture Mapping
- CAD/CAMM Programming
- Sinker and Wire EDM
- CNC Machining
- Water Jet Cutting



Keeping pace with the needs of the Texturing Industry, MST added its first 5-Axis Laser Texturing Machine two years ago. The addition of the ability to lay a 3-D Laser Texture on Molds and Rolls via a 5-Axis -GF- LASER S 1000 U Laser Machine set MST on a course for growth. The machine capacity of ~400 Pounds/Work Piece and working envelope of 39.4” x 21.7” x 34.6” quickly showed opportunities for future development.

Beginning Q-4 2023, MST will have a second Laser Texture Machine in operation. The new machine a -GF- Laser S 1200 U increases the size and weight capacity by nearly 10-fold. The 1200 U has a weight capacity of 3700 pounds and a working envelope of 47.2” x 35.4” x 47.2”. In addition to this machine, MST has added a Keyence™ Non-Contact Texture Scanner allowing them to capture textures from molded parts and then transfer the digital information over to the Laser Texture machines and replicate in new tooling.

Of course, training and creativity are required in such “Artisan” work. President Joe Gendron believes that providing the best in training yields the best results. For that reason, he continues to invest in his team through continuing education opportunities both in “Software Specific” classes and more generalized studies.

One thing is certain, the 20th Year for Mold Surface Textures will be a year of continued growth.

For more information, please contact:

Joe Gendron, President
Mold Surface Textures, Inc.
4485 Crystal Parkway, Suite 300
Kent, OH 44240

330-678-8590
jgendron@moldsurfacetextures.com
www.moldsurfacetextures.com



MEETING MINUTES

SPE Mold Technologies Division

Board of Directors

	Present	Absent	Excused		Present	Absent	Excused
Tony Demakis		X		Cesar Flores		X	
John Berg	X			Jason Murphy	X		
Scott Peters	X			Andy Hartmann	X		
Eric Hecker			X	Brenda Clark	Ex-Officio		
Greg Osborn	X			Davide Masato	X		
Barbara Arnold-Feret	X			Wes Stephens	X		
Stephen Hansen		X		Joe Karpinski			X
Rich Martin	X			Kerry Kanbara	X		
Craig Crossley	X			Hari Sharma	X		
Susan Huang	X			Hannah Coombs			X

September 12, 2023 -- 3:04 Central Time – Meeting start time

Division Chair – Scott Peters

Hari Sharma – he introduced himself to the board

We are looking for a second Track the Apprentice candidate

Amerimold has been cancelled due to 2024 being an NPE year

We are working with other societies, such as Canadian Association of Mold Builders, American Association of Mold Builders, etc.

Chair-Elect Report – vacant position

Nothing to report

Division Secretary Report – Wes Stephens

Nothing to report

Division Councilor Report – Barbara Arnold-Feret

Due to a lack of Council Meetings, there was nothing to report

Membership Chair – Eric Hecker

Nothing to report

Sponsorship Chair Report – Greg Osborne / Stephen Hansen

Received checks from Progressive Components and Hasco

Greg will follow up with the advertisers for checks

TPC Report –Davide Masato

Call for papers for ANTEC has been placed

Davide has a meeting regarding ANTEC later this week to discuss the number of speaking opportunities.

MEETING MINUTES

SPE Mold Technologies Division

(Continued)

Board of Directors

(Continued from Page 18)

RETEC Report – Barbara Arnold-Feret

Nothing to report

Newsletter Editor Report – John Berg

John is working our new layout artist, April Ranae

We are lgathering content, such as new information on our companies – new employees, new equipment, etc.

Davide has offered to put the newsletter on LinkedIn, outside of its posting on the MTD Page

Education Chair Report – Joe Karpinski

Nothing to report

Web and Public Interest – OPEN

Nothing to report

Treasurer’s Report – Rich Martin

- o \$167,825 - Bank of America
- o \$460 from SPE for pass-through dues
- o Bank of America - Signature card signature procedure is in process
- o If a check is sent to us for deposit, it needs to have the address:
Society of Plastics Engineers, Inc. DBA Mold Technologies, 408 Wellesley Place, Easley, SC 29642

International Committee – Davide Masato

- o Davide will connect with Hari about activities in India and connect with local members.
- o Work with other societies: Davide will connect with the Injection Molding Division for collaboration.

Intersociety Liaison Chair – OPEN

- o Scott said that we need an active intersociety liaison chair to work with the other groups in manufacturing

Track the Apprentice – Hannah Coombs – Susan Huang

- o Susan will be the new Track the Apprentice Coordinator
- o Rich Martin made the motion and Wes Stephens seconded the motion to have Susan on the board for 1 year

Social Chair Report – Kerry Kanbara

- o He has arranged for (30) participants for a golf tournament for 2024
- o Kerry has asked for board members to help with the tee and flag sponsor
- o Kerry said that the proceeds will go for the SPE MTD education scholarship fund
- o Scott has asked for information that will go out in newsletter – provide 1 page to John Berg

Meeting is adjourned at 4:11 PM Central



Mold Technologies Division

OUR MISSION: To be the leading industry resource for technical information and to advance plastic mold engineering technologies, while fostering industry growth, education and leadership.

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Division Chair-Elect / Awards Chair

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AWARDS 2024 - AWARDS 2024 - AWARDS 2024

Our 2023 Award presentations occurred during the PT-EXPO event, earlier this year, in Rosemont, Illinois. At that exhibition, we presented the awards for Mold Designer of the Year, Mold Maker of the Year and, new for 2023, the Mold Repair/Maintenance Person of the Year. The recipients each had an opportunity to do an interview with Christina Fuges of MoldMaking Technology Magazine.

2024, being an NPE (National Plastics Exposition) year, there will not be an AmeriMold or PT-EXPO. Instead, we will feature the presentation of the awards in the MoldMaking Technology booth on the NPE Show Floor. This will add to the significance of these International Awards. In 2024, and going forward, we are adding a fourth award to the line-up. That award is for the Apprentice of the Year.

In adding the Mold Repair Technician / Person in 2023 and now the Apprentice of the Year in 2024, we are rounding out the recognition of our practitioners of the mold making trade. We believe that the Mold Repair/Maintenance Tech is a previously “Un-Sung Hero” of our industry. We also believe that the Apprentice is the “Up and Comer” that is showing leadership in the development of their craft.

The requirements for participation in the Mold Designer, Mold Maker and Mold Repair Technician of the Year review are the same as in years past.

- Active or have been active in the Mold Making – Design or Repair Industry
- Have a reputation for fair and honest business dealings
- Have contributed either to industry or to society at large

A brief business biography (generally 1 – 2 pages) highlighting the nominee’s experience, influence, and impact per the information above and a high-resolution photo of the nominee are required for consideration.

For the Apprentice of the Year, we have a new format for nomination. The following page, in this newsletter, shows the information we require for consideration. This award is open to all Apprentice Mold Makers, Mold Designers and Mold Repair Technicians, as well as college/university track students currently employed and enrolled in an apprenticeship program.

Nominations for all FOUR INTERNATIONAL AWARDS must be received by 5:00 PM EST (US Eastern Time).

Submissions should be emailed to: Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com.

Please address any questions to Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com – Division Chair.

We cannot thank our sponsors for these awards enough. They are as follows:

Mold Designer of the Year – PROGRESSIVE COMPONENTS

Mold Maker of the Year – HASCO-AMERICA

Mold Repair/Maintenance Technician of the Year – MOLD-TRAX LLC

Apprentice of the Year – PCS Company

Please remember to consider these companies when seeking either or both mold components and tracking software for your tooling programs.



Nomination for Apprentice of the Year

Nomination Year: _____
Company Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State / Province: _____
Postal Code: _____
Telephone: _____
Website: _____

Apprenticeship Program Information Program Coordinator: _____

Coordinator Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Apprentice Trainer: _____ Trainer Email: _____

Is the apprenticeship program registered: Yes No

Registration Level: Federal Department of Labor Provincial/State Department of Labor

Related Theory Course Work: Yes No

Training Center Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State (Province): _____

Training Center Web-Address: _____

Apprentice Information Apprenticeship Type: _____

Apprentice Name: _____ Number of Years in Program: _____

Anticipated Date of Program Completion: _____

Cumulative Grade Point Average in Related Theory Program: _____

Additional Course Work, if any: _____

Include Degree Program work at the university/collegiate level beyond required related theory.

Demonstrated Technical Skills: _____

Nomination Narrative(s): Include a 1 – 3 paragraph explanation supporting the nomination of this apprentice. The narrative should include information related to the activities and performance of the apprentice that sets him/her apart from contemporaries or previous apprentices in your company and under your leadership.

Please note, the narratives may include "Program Coordinator" and "Related Theory" statements.

Newsletter Sponsorship

The SPE Mold Technologies Division Newsletter is now issued four times a year, with readership composed of individuals involved in all aspects of the mold making industry. These issues are made possible through the support of sponsors shown in this Newsletter. SPE Mold Technologies Division thanks these sponsors for their generosity and encouragement in the publishing of our Newsletter.

For information on sponsorship of future issues, please contact:
Scott Peters - Chair Elect/Awards Chair/Sponsorship Chair
Scott.peters@moldedmarketing.com

Publication Release Dates

Winter Issue
February 2024

Spring Issue
May 2024

Summer Issue
July 2024

Fall Issue
November 2024

SPONSORSHIP INFO 2023-2024

Platinum (\$2500/year)

Ad Specs: 9.75" H x 7.25" W

- Full page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo on signage in MTD booth at AmeriMold
- Company logo on signage at ANTEC
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

Gold (\$1250/year)

Ad Specs: 4.75" H x 7.25" W

- Half page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo on signage in MTD booth at AmeriMold
- Company logo on signage at ANTEC
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

Silver (\$625/year)

Ad Specs: 4.75" H x 3.5" W

- Quarter page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

Bronze (\$250/year)

Ad Specs: 2" H x 3.5" W

- Business card size ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- Company logo displayed at SPE events