San Antonio offers a myriad of opportunities for sightseeing and fun. The Riverwalk is 15 miles of shops, restaurants, museums, missions, and art studios that can be reached by walking or on river boats. We will be right in the middle of Hill Country which is a unique and beautiful part of the Texas landscape. The King William Historic district showcases Texas shops and history. There are a host of art galleries and museums in the area. You can taste some Tex Mex and barbecue cooking where it all started and the beer is very good. For golfers who loved Maine, you will find this golf quite different.

We will be staying at the Hilton Placio del Rio, a recently remodeled Hilton. Spectacularly situated on the banks of the San Antonio River, the Placio del Rio offers guest rooms with private balconies and a range of thoughtful amenities including 37-inch HDTVs, high-speed internet access, and a connectivity center. Only two blocks from the Alamo - one of Texas’ most legendary attractions - and close to San Antonio International Airport, this San Antonio hotel offers the perfect city center location.

We have a block of rooms starting February 18th for those arriving a day early. On Thursday, February 19th, there will be various PPA business meetings and a cocktail event in the evening. Tours of the area and a river cruise with cocktails and dinner are scheduled for Friday, February 20th. There are four very prominent missions and we will have a tour option to view these 300 year old sites before the induction dinner on Saturday, the 21st.

Host couples will be Ashby and Vivienne Rice and Kurt and Kathy Swogger.

If you have been in Texas before, you know you will enjoy it and if you have not, you might as well see what all the hoopla is about!
The success of a meeting of the Plastics Pioneers Association can be measured by whether or not we accomplished the objectives of our Association as they are spelled out in our By-Laws. In short, these are:

- Recognize achievements in the fields of plastics and/or polymer science
- Support industry-wide educational programs
- Promote the study and improvement of plastics
- Ensure the collection and preservation of the history of the plastics industry

At our October meeting at The Stage Neck Inn, we certainly met these objectives by:

- Inducting four new members and recognizing their achievements in our industry
- Recommending the allocation of $50,000.00 for scholarships and other educational programs
- Hearing Michael Magaletta tell of his studies at U of Mass, Lowell and the position he will have with Proctor & Gamble upon his graduation
- Learning more about what is going on at Syracuse and their collections

In addition to meeting our objectives, we certainly fostered friendships through cocktail parties, cooking class, golf and a trip to Kennebunkport. By all measures, the meeting was a crowning success!

Now the hard work begins. As we get ready for our annual meeting in San Antonio, the behind the scenes responsibilities of raising monies to continue our programs, increasing our membership, evaluating institutions for additional scholarships, and increasing the participation of members in our activities will be taking place. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the Annual Meeting, February 19 – 22, 2015, at the Hotel Palacio del Rio as we will be electing three new members to the Board of Governors and a new slate of Officers.

Our Association is a great one because of us, the members, and can be even greater if everyone participates in the programs and in our meetings.

See you all in San Antonio where Ashby and Vivienne Rice and Kurt and Kathy Swogger are hosting us for a real Texas happening!

From The Editors’ Desk

In Chicago, the Blackhawks’ slogan is “one goal” – to win the Stanley Cup. As editors of the MTS, our goal is to highlight the activities of each PPA meeting and promote the scholarship and education-related activities of the Plastics Pioneers Association. We also want to encourage members to attend and enjoy future PPA meetings.

In order to meet our goal in future editions of the MTS, we need help from PPA members willing to share their news or hobbies with Association members. Do you have an unusual hobby? Have you seen plastics in an unexpected place? Do you know someone who has been recognized or received an award for service to the plastics industry? If so, please let us know at 847-381-1670 or johnblc@gmail.com.

John and Moira Fearcombe
Larry and Terry Schneider
Co-editors
Photos from the Fall 2014 Meeting at Stage Neck Inn, in York Harbor, ME

Thursday Night Cocktails at Steve and Roz Hershfields’

Friday Night Cocktails Before the Lobster Bake at Stage Neck Inn
Photos from the Fall 2014 Meeting at Stage Neck Inn, in York Harbor, ME
Dinner on Friday
Kicking It Up on Friday Night
PHOTOS FROM THE FALL 2014 MEETING AT STAGE NECK INN, IN YORK HARBOR, ME
DINNER ON SATURDAY
On Friday, October 17, thirteen of us hopped into vehicles and drove to Stonewall Kitchen’s Cooking School where we enjoyed a private luncheon with chef, Kate Ellingwood. Believe it or not, this wonderful chef spent ten years working as an aircraft mechanic for the United States Air Force!

Not really sure what to expect, some of us thought that we would probably be given a small taste of each of the items that Kate prepared. Boy, were we wrong. After showing us how to prepare each item on the menu, we were given a full serving of these delicious dishes. Kate took us step-by-step to show us how to make a balsamic reduction for the Caprese Salad she prepared. The main course consisted of Chicken with Parma Ham and Lemon Garlic Beurre Blanc, Duchess Potatoes and Balsamic Roasted Root Vegetables. Finally, as if we weren’t already sated, she took us through the process of making homemade Blueberry Crisp with homemade Vanilla Bean Ice Cream.

Stonewall Kitchen was kind enough to give each of us the recipes for these dishes.

After a question-and-answer period, some of us proceeded to go shopping in Stonewall Kitchen’s wonderful store which is located next door to the Cooking School. Their store carries foodstuffs, mixes, syrups, cooking utensils, home décor and more.

Everyone agreed that this had been a wonderful experience, even if we had eaten too much!
On a nice sunny Friday morning in Maine a group from our PPA was off on a bus trip to Kennebunkport with a stop along the way to take pictures and to see the Bush Compound on Walkers Point from a close distance. From there we were on our way to the gorgeous old Kennebunkport Inn for a great lunch before shopping The Docks Square filled with boutiques, art galleries and hand crafted gift shops.
GOLF

13 golfers and 1 fore-caddie enjoyed golf over two days at The Ledges Golf Club, a spectacular and very challenging setting, accompanied by beautiful, then “soft”, Maine fall weather. Three threesomes played on Friday, and a foursome and a threesome played on Saturday.

Team A:
Bob Hare, Dan McGuire, and Rick Hoeske

Team B:
Anne and Bill Humphrey, Darlene Stewart, and John Schmidt

Team C:
Kurt Swogger, Mark Wolverton, and Stu Swain

PPA plaques and cash were awarded to:
Ladies Champion: Friday – Darlene Stewart       Saturday – Ruth Meade
Longest Drive: Friday – Mark Wolverton         Saturday – Sal Monte
Friday Closest to Pin – Robert Hare
Saturday Longest Putt Made for Lowest Score – Dennis Meade (tied by Kurt for length, sneaking past on score)
Overall Men’s Champion – Stuart Swain
The coveted Horn Spoon was earned by Kurt Swogger
BOCCE BALL

On Saturday, while others went shopping at the York Marketfest and/or Harvestfest, Don and Marlene Rosato set up a bocce ball court. There was a spirited competition, but rain ended the game early. A seagull provided some excitement when, thinking it was an egg, the gull tried to fly off with the pallino, with no success. Don and Marlene provided Maine prizes to all competitors and it was decided that, because the game was shortened due to the weather, everyone was a winner!

SWEATSHIRTS AND CAPS

With the cold winter weather nipping at our noses, this is a good time to remind everyone that we still have a selection of PPA sweatshirts and caps available.

Gail Rotheiser models the blue polyester/cotton 50/50 heavyweight ultra blend fleece crew with the PPA logo. Available in sizes small through XXXL, they are priced at $25.00 if pre-ordered and picked up at the Spring 2015 meeting in San Antonio or $31.00 delivered to your home. Sweatshirts may be ordered from Dolores Mack at 48 Old Nugent Farm Road, Gloucester, MA 01930. If there are any questions, please contact Dolores at doloresmack@cs.com or call her at 978-281-3213.

Deluxe Polo Style “Palmer Caps” are made of 100% cotton twill fabric, with Velcro closure. They are available in red (shown here), khaki (tan), and navy. The cost is $10.00 plus shipping. Cap orders may be placed with Cathy Connell at 2900 W. Dayton Street, McHenry, IL 60050; 815-759-2118.

Make checks for the sweatshirt or cap payable to the Plastics Pioneers Association and mail them with your order.
The Plastics Pioneers Association announced that four new members have joined the organization. The membership is limited to 250 active members who must have 25 or more years of experience in the industry to be considered. In addition, an existing PPA member must sponsor the nominee who is judged on contributions made to the advancement of the plastics industry.

**Joseph Bennett**

Joe has worked in the plastics tooling industry since 1967. In 1970, he co-founded United Southern Industries in North Carolina, a custom injection molder. He was President and CEO when the company was sold to Wilbert Plastics in 2011.

Joe joined SPE in 1966 and was named Honored Service Member Emeritus in 1997. He served on the Board of Governors for SPE’s Injection Molding Division for over ten years in addition to being involved in SPE on the local level. Joe has also been active with SPI.

Joe has always been committed to continuing education, serving as Education Chairman for SPE. In 1988 he accepted a challenge to match a $100,000 donation to establish the Richard Goolsby Foundation for promoting plastics education. Three years later he had raised $200,000. He established a curriculum for plastics programs at Isothermal Community College in Forest City, NC, and contributed to two local scholarships to help students pursue careers in plastics.

In 1997 he actively lobbied the North Carolina state legislature for funds to support the Polymer Extension Program at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He was elected to the board of directors of the Plastics Center of Excellence in June 1998, and served as chairman beginning June 2011. Joe is currently retired from plastics, but runs the Bennett Classics Antique Car Museum in Rutherfordton, NC.

**Sponsors: Bill Humphrey and John Schmidt**

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**James Johnson**

Jim’s career in plastics has spanned six decades. He earned his B.S. degree from the University of Massachusetts in 1960 then joined Rexall Chemical Company as a Technical Service Engineer. Seven years later he began a 46 year career in the extrusion machinery business.

Jim joined Johnson Plastics Machinery in 1968 as Vice President of Sales and Marketing. That same year he earned his Master’s Degree in Chemical Engineering from Stevens Institute of Technology. In 1980 Jim joined Reifenhauser Van Dorn as Vice President of Sales. From 1986 through 1994 he was the business manager of sheet products for Davis Standard when he moved to the flat-die side of the business when he joined Extrusion Die Industries as Vice President of Sales. From 2004 to 2014 Jim has served as senior Vice President of Sales for PTi, a leading supplier of sheet extrusion systems.

Jim has been a member of SPE for many years and has presented papers at numerous ANTEC®s and regional conferences. Jim received the President’s Award from Crompton & Knowles, at that time the parent company of Davis-Standard. In 2007 the Extrusion Division of the SPE presented him with the Jack Barney Award for his contributions to sheet extrusion.

**Sponsors: Al Hodge and Dennis Paradise**
Dennis Meade

Dennis has been in the plastics and chemical business since 1971. He began his career as Operations Manager for Lancer Chemical in 1971; after that he began to focus more on the color industry, and from 1980 to 1988 he was the Technical Director for Leglo Color. After running Ferro’s Huron, Ohio plant as General Manager in 1989, Dennis founded and was President of Phoenix Color.

In 2000, after Accel Color purchased Phoenix, Dennis remained as Vice President of Technology. In 2009 he joined Techmer as Specialty Products Manager. Currently Dennis is the Business Development Manager for Chroma Corporation.

Dennis has been a member of SPE since 1971; he served two terms as President of SPE’s Firelands Section where he also chaired the Education Committee. He has also been Chairman of the Education Committee for the Detroit Section of SPE, served as a board member for 12 years on SPE’s Color and Appearance Division, and since 1978 has been a member of the Detroit Color Council.

Dennis has always been very active in promoting education in plastics and color. He is a founding committee member and current member of the Advisory Board of the Terra Community College’s Plastics Color and Manufacturing Associates Degree Program. He is also a founding committee member of the Plastics Manufacturing Certificate and Associates Degree Program at Schoolcraft College.

Dennis has presented papers at numerous SPE conferences as well as at AMI’s Color Concentrate Conference and the Cultured Marble Institute Conference. He is also a contributing author to the second edition of Coloring of Plastics Fundamentals.

Sponsors: Stuart Swain and Al Hodge

John Beaumont

John has truly been a pioneer in advancing injection molding technology, and promoting educational opportunities in plastics, for more than 40 years.

He earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees from U-Mass Lowell. Early in his career he was involved in research and project engineering and technical management for General Tire and Rubber Company, Rowland, Ciba Vision Corporation and Moldflow.

For 25 years John has been professor and Program Chair for the Penn State Erie Plastics Program where he is one of the three founding faculty members. He is also president of Beaumont Technologies where he has spearheaded the development of numerous innovative technologies.

John has been actively involved in SPE for most of his career serving in the Injection Molding Division from 1994-2006, including Division Chair from 1998-1999 and Division Technical Program Chair for ANTEC®. In 2007 John was elected as a SPE Fellow.
He has received numerous awards during his career. In 2000 John was awarded Engineer of the Year by SPE’s Injection Molding Division, received the Behrend College Council of Fellows’ Excellence in Outreach and Service Award and was acknowledge by SPE’s Erie Engineering Council with the Outstanding Member Award. In 2001 he was named Engineer of the Year by SPE’s Injection Molding Division, and in 2006 Plastics Technology cited Beaumont Technologies as presenting one of the top three new technologies at NPE.

John has authored five books on various aspects of injection molding technology, contributed chapters to four other books, and has written dozens of technical articles for trade publications and journals. He is also the holder of seven patents, with two more pending.

Sponsors: John Blundy and Tim Womer

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

Patsy Beall

Leading members of the plastics industry joined with family and friends at a Nov. 15th awards dinner to recognize Patsy Beall as an Honorary Member of the Society of Plastics Engineers. The Honorary Member grade is rarely awarded. This is the first time this designation has been given to an individual for his/her contributions to SPE. The award is overseen by the Past Presidents Advisory Board of SPE.

Patsy was recognized as the force behind her business partner and husband, Plastics Hall of Fame member Glenn Beall, as well as a mentor and influencer of plastics professionals. She was cited for her guidance of young professionals, advocacy of SPE and emphasis on education in the nomination by long time SPE member Barbara Arnold-Feret.

The celebration dinner was organized by Mark Wolverton of the Chicago Section and underwritten by the Mold Making and Mold Division, the Chicago Section, the Rotational Molding Division and the Product Design and Development Division of SPE.

“Patsy is one of SPE’s best cheerleaders – telling everyone about the great work that SPE does in education, in technology and in bringing together people who work in industry. Election to Honorary Member of SPE is a well-deserved recognition.” said Wolverton.

Patsy received a framed certificate from Russell Broome, a Past President of SPE and current Managing Director of the Society, a trophy, and a gold SPE pendant with emerald accent mounted on a hand crafted horn pendant. The horn base has special significance to Patsy because of her collection of horn combs and to Glenn as a member of The Worshipful Company of Horners. Ms. Arnold-Feret read the nomination and gifted Mrs. Beall with a sparkling tiara to signify that Patsy was the “godmother of plastics” in the eyes of many.

In remarks read by family friend Gail Rotheiser, Patsy noted that plastics and the people in SPE have become her second family and that she was deeply honored by this recognition.

From SPE press release

Editors’ note: For those of you who haven’t heard, Patsy died in her sleep one week later on November 22 at home. Memorial services were held in Libertyville, IL and in Wyoming, IL to remember Patsy as a wife, sister, aunt and friend. She will be greatly missed.
Dr. Ernest Bernhardt was inducted posthumously into the SPE Hall of Fame on Sunday April 27 during ANTEC® 2014 in Las Vegas.

“Posthumous Hall of Fame inductees recognize deceased individuals who have a strong record of consistent dedication and extraordinary accomplishments and who contributed to the stature and growth of the plastics industry. It is truly the highest honor to be bestowed on anyone who has served in the plastics industry. These individuals were true innovators who dedicated their lifelong careers to advancing plastics innovation. Their contributions and extraordinary accomplishments will forever carry on in the history of the industry,” said Jay Gardiner, President of the Plastics Academy. (http://www.plasticsindustry.org/AboutSPI/NewsItem.cfm?ItemNumber=12512)

Born in Berlin, Germany, Dr. Bernhardt immigrated to the United States in 1936. He earned a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University, M. Ch E. from the University of Delaware, and a doctorate in Engineering from the University of Darmstadt, Germany.

After serving in the US Army during WWII, Dr. Bernhardt enjoyed a long career in the plastics industry, including more than twenty years at the European headquarters of the DuPont de Nemours Company, in Geneva, Switzerland. While at DuPont, he worked on the commercial development of plastics, and was awarded several patents related to extrusion. He edited the book Processing of Thermoplastics Materials and authored numerous articles on the processing of thermoplastics and the use of CAE in plastics processing.

In retirement, Dr. Bernhardt consulted, mentored, and founded Plastics & Computers, Inc. He was active in the Society of Plastics Engineers and the Plastics Pioneers Association.

Ernest Bernhardt died on March 2, 2013 at the age of 90. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Elizabeth C. Bernhardt, daughter, Anne Bernhardt, son Russell Bernhardt and his wife, Dr. Belinda Vicioso, and granddaughters Antonia Bernhardt and Maria Bernhardt.

During the 2014 ANTEC® Awards Luncheon, SPE President, Jon Ratzlaff, surprised Glenn Beall with the Society's Excellence In Mentoring Award. This award recognizes a member's many years of advising, supporting, and encouraging less-experienced members as they pursue their, and the Society's, goals.

Glenn is a long-time member and Chairman of the Plastics Pioneers Association’s Plastics History & Artifacts Committee. Over the years he has mentored many new members of the Association and the plastics industry.

In accepting the award Glenn cited the long-lasting influence of George Ryan, an early mentor who advised him to join SPE, to attend the monthly Section meetings, and to get involved. Glenn said he did those things because George said to and that was the way things were done in those days.

He went on to say that it was never mentioned again, but George had to have been aware of the great opportunity he was providing. George’s recommendation made it possible for a young engineer buried deep inside a large corporation to break out and get to know and learn from, first the local SPE and the Chicago plastics industry, and later the National SPE and the whole plastics industry.

Glenn believes that one recommendation had a profound effect on his career and quality of life.

From SPE press release

From SPI press release and family obituary.
Research conducted by plastics and polymer engineering technology majors at Pennsylvania College of Technology has been recognized by the Rotational Molding Division of the Society of Plastics Engineers. Larry Schneider, representing the Board of Directors of the SPE Rotational Molding Division, recently commemorated the students’ work by traveling to campus and presenting plaques to Julia I. Gilchrist, of Hanover; Thomas J. Ryder, of Muncy; Benjamin G. Robertson, of Hummelstown; and Taylor J. Smith, of Williamsport.

The four students researched powdered polyethylene and micro-pelletized polyethylene. Earlier this year, Gilchrist and Ryder delivered the team’s findings in Cleveland at RMD TOPCON, a forum for SPE members to exchange information regarding rotational molding. “It’s quite appropriate that these four students have been recognized for their commitment to the plastics field,” said David R. Cotner, dean of the School of Industrial, Computing & Engineering Technologies. “Their hard work in conducting the study is a great example of how students can enhance their education outside of regular class and lab sessions. Presenting their research at a well-respected industry event speaks to the quality of their work.”

In rotational molding, plastic is melted inside a hollow mold that is machined to the shape and size of the desired plastic part. The students researched which type of plastic, polyethylene powder or micro polyethylene pellets performs best in terms of flowing into difficult features and minimizing voids in the rotational molding process. They concluded that the pellets were superior and recommended additional study.

The students conducted their research at Penn College’s Rotational Molding Center of Excellence. Part of the Plastics Innovation & Resource Center, the Rotational Molding Center of Excellence offers independent, hands-on applied research and development to the rotomolding community.

Gary E. McQuay, PIRC engineering manager, attended RMD TOPCON with Gilchrist and Ryder and was impressed with the duo’s presentation. Both Julia and Tom were very professional and respectful and made a lot of friends at the conference,” he said. “They were excellent ambassadors for Penn College, the plastics department and the PIRC.”

Penn College is one of only five plastics programs in the nation offering degrees accredited by the Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission of ABET. The PIRC is one of the top plastics technology centers in the nation for research development and education related to injection molding, extrusion, blow molding, rotational molding and thermoforming.

From Penn College press release
The Friends of McHenry County College Foundation has awarded the Robert D. Swain Scholarship for the first time. The Spring 2014 recipient is Lupe Ayala Ortiz of Woodstock.

Tom Bolger, Chroma Corporation President and CEO, said that the scholarship was established to honor Robert D. Swain, founder of the Chroma Corporation to help support children and grandchildren of employees as they further their education. A $500 scholarship will be awarded each semester (fall and spring) and monies awarded may only be used for tuition, fees, and books at McHenry County College.

Tom Bolger, Chroma Corporation President and CEO, with recipients and Chroma Corporation press release.

From Chroma Corporation press release

David and Rozann Caldwell

At the Fall 2014 PPA meeting, the BOG voted to name David and Rozann Editors Emeriti of the MTS in recognition of their contribution to converting the MTS into digital format.

David and Rozann Caldwell

The PPA Education Committee has recommended the allocation of $50,000 for scholarship awards and other education funding in 2015. This action is in keeping with a major objective of PPA, that being to support industry-wide education programs. The distribution of these funds is planned as follows:

- $18,000 to the University of Massachusetts at Lowell
- $6,000 to the SPE for two scholarships
- $4,500 to the University of Syracuse
- $3,000 to Penn State Erie, Behrend College
- $7,500 to the PlastiVan program
- $5,000 to Polymer Ambassadors
- $3,000 to Ferris State University
- $3,000 to Penn College of Technology

A special guest at the Fall PPA meeting was Michael Magaletta, the first recipient of the PPA Endowed Scholarship at the University of Massachusetts – Lowell. After being introduced by Dr. Robert Malloy, Michael gave us a quick summary of his resume – 3.99 GPA, Research Assistant at Lowell, and an internship at Procter & Gamble – Gillette in Boston summers 2013 and 2014 (which led to a job offer from P&G after graduation).
**Austin Bailey:** Austin is a senior and a plastics engineering technology major at Pittsburg State University, where next year he will begin working on both a master’s degree in plastics engineering technology and a master’s degree in polymer chemistry. He worked for almost a year at ETCO Specialty Products, an injection molding facility in Girard, KS. Austin interned this past summer with BD Medical in Holdrege, NE. He’s also been working on polymer additive research with both the PSU Chemistry Department and the Kansas Polymer Research Center. Austin is an Eagle Scout and was valedictorian of his high school class. He maintains a 3.9 GPA at PSU, is a member of a number of honor societies there, and serves as President of the SPE Student Chapter.

**Victor Batarseh:** Victor is a junior at Drexel University enrolled in the Chemical Engineering BS/MS program, where he maintains a 3.97 GPA. Victor has worked at Arkema Inc. as a Materials Engineer and Chemist, as well as Merck & Co. Inc. as a Pharmaceutical Packaging Engineer. He is a member of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers and the Drexel University AIChE Student Chapter. He serves as President of Kappa Theta Epsilon National Co-op Honors Society. Victor plans to pursue his Ph.D. and is interested in finding applications for plastics derived from renewable materials.

**Patrick Facendola:** Patrick is a junior at the University of Massachusetts-Lowell, where he is enrolled in the Plastics Engineering program. He is a member of the UML Honors College and the SPE Student Chapter. During the summer following his freshman year at UML, he received an internship at Felton Inc. where he collaborated with a team of engineers to develop a proprietary project for John Deere. The following fall, he became the class rep for SPE and received an eight-month co-op position at Johnson & Johnson DePuy Mitek where he worked with bioabsorbable materials, injection molding and different elements of design. He hopes to work in the medical plastics area in an R&D position.

**Jake Fallon:** Jake is a senior at Penn State Behrend majoring in Plastics Engineering Technology. He is the founder of the 3D printing club at Penn State and has served as the SPE Student Chapter President for the last two years. Recently, Jake was awarded the Nationally Engaged Leader Award through the National Society of Leadership and Success. He is also Vice President of Tau Alpha Pi, a society for students who are ranked in the top 4% of the School of Engineering Technology. Jake held an internship with Delphi Connection Systems evaluating cavity pressure monitoring for injection molding tools. He is honored to receive this prestigious award from such a respected organization.

**Stephen Levy:** Stephen is a senior at Penn State Behrend where he’s been on the Dean’s list and maintains a 3.43 GPA. He will graduate with a degree in Plastics Engineering Technology and a minor in Operations and Supply Chain Management. He is a member of Tau Alpha Pi, a society for students who are ranked in the top 4% of the School of Engineering Technology. He is also a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society chapter at Behrend. Stephen has interned at Parker Hannifin Autoclave Engineers, Beaumont Industries, General Electric Appliances, and GOJO Industries. In addition, he has volunteered his services for a number of community organizations including Cell Phones for Soldiers and a local food bank.

*Continued on next page*
Jordyn Showers: Jordyn is a sophomore in the Plastics Engineering Technology program at Pittsburg State University. She credits a dedicated high school science teacher for getting her interested in plastics. An avid volunteer during her high school years, she also was valedictorian of her class. She is currently working as an intern with PRG Prototyping, where she has had hands-on experience working with rapid prototyping machines and molds with different plastics materials. Jordyn is a member of SPE, the Society of Women Engineers, the PSU Honors College, and the Phi Eta Sigma Honors Society. She continues her volunteer work in college, while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Jordyn is excited about the great possibilities in the plastics industry and thanks PPA for its support.

Joshua Snyder: Joshua is a senior and a Dean’s list student in the Plastics Engineering Technology program at Ferris State University. In addition to his studies, he worked for ADAC Automotive for the last three years, where his work was primarily with automotive injection molding, gas-assist injection molding, and tandem injection molding. At ADAC, he was responsible for many tasks, including developing processes for new tools and testing new materials. After graduation, Joshua hopes to obtain a Master’s degree in Business Management or Operations, and become a manufacturing engineer for an injection molding company.

Drake Stephens: Drake is a senior at Pittsburg State University in the Plastics Engineering Technology program with both an emphasis in design and manufacturing and a minor in chemistry. He received an Associates of Science degree from Allen Community College prior to enrolling at PSU. Last year, Drake participated in an internship at Charloma Inc., a custom plastics production company with thermoforming, blow molding, rotational molding and injection molding machines. This past summer, he had an internship with ORBIS Corporation, an injection molding company. Drake is thankful and appreciative of being selected as one of this year’s PPA scholarship recipients.

Paul Woodson: Paul is a senior Mechanical Engineering student at Kettering University. He is also pursuing a minor in the recently developed plastics engineering program. Last year he worked as a co-op with Magna Exteriors where he helped on the design process of a series of parts for Nissan. He also worked on a RIM project and two projects using the compression molding process. He helps with the Kettering Polymer Processing Lab outreach programs for middle and high school students and runs the weekly “Innovation Quest” held on campus, which involves engineering challenges for teams of students. He is President of the SPE Student Chapter at Kettering. He would like to continue his education with an MBA or master’s degree in plastics engineering.

Scholarship candidates are selected after reviewing the application list supplied to PPA by the Society of Plastics Engineers.
We chose Antarctica because the timing was right – it was between Christmas and New Year’s. I was travelling a lot at that time for business, both domestically and overseas, but this was different.

Although I was an inexperienced photographer at that point, and ill-equipped with an inexpensive point and shoot camera, the sheer grandeur of the scenery and amazing wildlife inspired me to become a better nature photographer. Over the next ten years, whenever I had the chance I attended workshops and read as much as I could on the subject of photography. Most of the workshops were advertised in Outdoor Photographer – I still subscribe to that. I found the books by lunch-time browsing at a Barnes and Noble store near my office. Some of those workshops were in lovely locations where you could learn and shoot at the same time.

By 2005, I realized that digital photography was here to stay, so I switched to the right cameras, lenses, and software for me. I’ve had many Canon cameras over the years and am currently using a Mark IV and a 7D. Lenses range from macro close-up and wide-angle to telephoto 500. I use Adobe PhotoShop so I can process images with just the right amount of enhancement--my personal preference is not to materially change the image I captured. My biggest challenge still today is keeping up with the complexities of the Adobe Photoshop software – it’s an ongoing love/hate relationship! I’ve taken many private in-home lessons over the years for Adobe PS--still take refresher sessions now and then.

After Jack passed away in 2001, I found that I could comfortably travel by myself with other like-minded souls on trips especially arranged for nature photographers. Since then I’ve been on many trips with Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris. They make all the arrangements for small groups of photographers to travel anywhere around the world for the express purpose of nature photography, always with an experienced leader to facilitate both the trip and the photography.

To give you an idea of what the trips are like, I’ll describe one of my latest adventures. In July, I traveled with a group of 50 enthusiastic nature photographers on an exciting JVO tour to the High Arctic on a Russian ice-breaker. I’d planned this trip for about a year. This expedition would not be aboard a luxury cruise ship, but rather on a research vessel that had been chartered for its ability to cut through the polar ice pack, with a very flexible itinerary based on wildlife sightings. Fortunately, the Polar Pioneer proved worthy of its task. My cabin was small, but clean and adequate and the meals on board were wholesome and plentiful --what more do you need? The well-travelled group of photographers came from all over the U.S. as well as from other countries, so there were lots of interesting stories to enjoy on the journey.

The trip started when I travelled from Newark, NJ to Oslo, Norway on a direct overnight flight-direct flights are much preferred when traveling with camera gear in the cabin and checked luggage. I flew out of the Oslo airport the next morning on a domestic flight headed north to Longyearbyen, the point of departure for our trip.

Another night was spent in Longyearbyen at the very comfortable Polar Hotel. We had some time available to explore this world’s most northern town. There are 2,000 hardy year-round inhabitants who enjoy 24 hours of daylight in the summer months,
but just a very few hours of daylight in the extremely cold winter months. Anyone going beyond the town perimeter must carry a licensed firearm for protection from the polar bears. All residents must be gainfully employed or demonstrate a source of independent income—in the harsh winter climate in this isolated location, homelessness is not an option.

We sailed north out of Longyearbyen the next day and almost immediately were surrounded by spectacular scenery. By the second day we had reached pack ice where we encountered our first polar bear sighting. There were always a couple of spotters with binoculars on the bridge deck looking for “cream dots” out on the ice-pack. The ship slowly navigated close to the sighting, then stopped the engines. This bear was asleep when first identified, but it woke with a stretch and slowly lumbered closer and closer to the ship. Eventually it was so close that it was too big for most camera lenses. It studied us for a while then turned around and slowly plodded away. We were all thrilled to have such a wonderful photo op so early in our trip, but the next day was a quiet one—no bears in sight.

However, we were able to photograph various seals and sea birds and, always, gorgeous scenery. On day three, we had several opportunities to photograph walruses, another target species. Our best walrus shots were made from the Zodiacs (small inflatable rubber boats with sides and bow made of flexible tubes containing pressurized gas). There were five Zodiacs for our group of 50, 10 in each boat, all of us very warmly dressed and wearing mandatory life vests. The Zodiacs are very quiet when the small outboard motors are turned off so we were able to get very close to several groups of walrus, both on ice and in the water.

Our most exciting encounter with the polar bears happened when we found one feasting on a dead Beluga whale carcass. Usually, the bears have to work hard to find a seal for food, so this was a huge nutritional bonus for them. We saw three different bears working on this carcass over the course of two days. We had great weather and lighting which added impact for this unusual photographic experience.

We were far out on the pack ice for the 4th of July celebration. The crew arranged for an outdoor BBQ on the back lower deck, accompanied by some very loud and lively music and some generous drinks. All crew members who were not on duty were invited to attend. We were all well wrapped up in layers of clothing, parkas, hats, gloves, and boots which did not make for any easy dancing, but a fun time was had by all.  

Continued on next page
One evening, in the middle of our meal, we were called out on deck to enjoy a black-and-white spectacle of a magnificent glacier reflected in the water with bits of fog rolling around. We were all in awe of the sight and had no regrets in leaving the dining room to get these once-in-a lifetime photographs.

All too soon, the eight days of photographing the High Arctic wonders were over, and it was time to start the long trek back home, with lots of great memories, and hopefully a few great photographs.

Over the years, I’ve had the good fortune to visit many intriguing destinations which appeal to my interest in photographing nature. I’ve often been asked which is my favorite trip, but this is a hard question to answer. I find it difficult to chose between Antarctica (4 trips), Iceland (3 trips), the Arctic (now twice with this trip), or Japan in winter (just once, but I’d love to go back) – they all rank high on my list. Then there is Midway Atoll, a difficult to reach speck in the Pacific ocean halfway between Hawaii and Japan - I’ve been there four times, but would be ready to go again in a heartbeat should the opportunity arise. And my next trip??? Not exactly sure, but I’m hunting around for another adventure!!!

If you would like to see more of my images, please check out my website isobelsimages.com and for more information on the Joseph Van Os Photo Safaris, their website is photosafaris.com. I’ll be in Texas and would love to talk to you about my hobby.

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**PLASTICS IN UNEXPECTED PLACES**

On a recent visit to the National Museum of Iceland (Pjöðminjasafn Íslands) in Reykjavik, John and Moira were surprised to find an exhibit on “Welfare and the Consumer Society” showcasing plastics in several formats. The exhibit included a Bakelite radio and Bakelite telephone with both a crank and dial.

We’re not quite sure how big a market there would have been for the transparent plastic national dress, created by Ásdís Elva Pétursdóttir for the millennium, but it was an interesting concept.

The Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor celebrates the heritage, culture, history, and archaeology of Maine's Native Americans. An exhibit of Native American art includes baskets created by Vera Longtoe Sheehan, enrolled in the Abenaki Tribe. The right-most basket is composed of Tyvek house wrap, opaque plastic wrap, and silk chiffon.
THE SURVEY SAYS . . .

At Stage Neck Inn, the intrepid interviewer posed the question, “What one piece of advice would you give to your 20 - year old self?” The responses are summarized below. Unless indicated, each response occurred once.

Wisdom 9%
- Listen to your parents more (2)
- Listen more, talk less
- Don’t think you know everything
- This too shall pass
- Enjoy the ride
- Relax and smell the roses

Self-acceptance 14%
- Accept yourself for who you are (3)
- There is a plan, but go with the flow (2)
- When your jeans get too tight, lose 5 lbs
- Stay strong, you’ll need it
- Respect yourself, respect others, and be responsible for your actions
- Do what you want but don’t harm others
- Persistence is omnipotent, it trumps everything

Career 15%
- Plastics (3)
- Go to work (3)
- Do something for which you have passion (4)
- Be more diplomatic when telling CEO what you want

Risk taking 25%
- Think long term (7)
- Take more risks (5)
- Follow your dream (3)
- Be more political
- Be more conservative
- Take one day at a time
- Make every day count – you don’t know how many you’ll have

Education 16%
- Get as much education as you can (6)
- Focus harder on studies (3)
- Find a way to pay for college

Settling down, marriage, and sex 21%
- Don’t marry too early (6)
- Use birth control (3)
- Marry money (3)
- Don’t marry someone you don’t respect
- Have fun with sex
- Stay away from young men
- Party while you can

Note: When recent scholarship winner Michael Magaletta was asked the same question, he said that he would tell his peers to “get involved.”
On Thursday afternoon the PALS held their first Tea for the spouses of new members in order to get to meet them and to get to know them in more relaxed surroundings. The tea was held at the Stage Neck Inn. Because of its success, PALS is considering making this a tradition. The tea was open to both new and returning spouses of all of the PPA’s members.

Once again, we signed Get Well, Sympathy and Thinking of You cards for those who were unable to attend the meeting for various reasons. If you know of someone who should be sent a card, please contact Rozann Caldwell at dcaldwell@wi.rr.com.

As in years past, we also held our 50/50 raffle. Sales were brisk and Ruth Meade drew Lloyd Goettler’s name as winner Saturday evening after the installation of new members.

A special thanks to Ginny Williams for creating all of the centerpieces for Saturday evening’s tables and generously donating them to the person at each table whose birthday was closest to that date.
GAIL BRISTOL - SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW

It may surprise you to learn that Gail Bristol’s career in plastics involved a quirk of fate. A stay-at-home mom hoping to get back into the job market, Gail answered a newspaper ad for the Society of Plastics Engineers and was hired in 1981. Ten months later, while attending NPE, she came across the Kistler Instrument Corporation booth, and realized that her plastics career had actually started much earlier! Her first job out of college was in sales and advertising for Kistler, a firm that makes pressure sensing instruments used in injection molding machines. Gail’s work for Kistler was mostly with NASA’s early space flights, so Kistler’s plastics industry market was unknown to her until that fateful day at NPE!

Gail started with SPE in the Programs Department, working on the many seminars SPE offered. But after only nine months, her talents became apparent and she moved to working with SPE Sections and Divisions (Field Services). For eighteen years, Gail’s travels for her job took her to the forty-eight contiguous states, Canada, Mexico, and Europe. In addition to acting as a bridge with SPE headquarters, Gail traveled to support members as they built their organizations and to help make them more effective in their volunteer efforts.

When her daughters headed off to college, Gail got a second job as a proofreader for a book publisher, editing books at night – at home and even in hotel rooms after SPE meetings were over. Eventually, her additional responsibilities at SPE caused her to leave this position.

In 1996, even though she was still actively performing Field Services duties, Gail became the first (and only) Managing Director of the SPE Foundation. The Foundation provides scholarships to students planning to enter the plastics industry, and grants to institutions fostering knowledge of the plastics industry.

Gail believes that forming the Foundation was her greatest professional accomplishment. She says that making “that wonderful phone call telling kids they got a scholarship” and hearing the students’ excitement was extremely fulfilling. Gail became the Managing Director of SPE in 2011, but kept her Foundation responsibilities. To recognize Gail’s vital role in the formation and continuing success of the Foundation, the “Gail R. Bristol Scholarship” was established by the Foundation Board in 2014. This $3,000 scholarship is intended for a student (either undergraduate or graduate), preferably female, planning to enter the plastics industry.

Gail is the recipient of two of SPE’s most important awards. She was honored by SPE when she received the President’s Cup at ANTEC® 2008 in Milwaukee. This award is “bestowed by the president of the Society on a person who, in the president’s opinion, has given significant service and support to SPE and our members.” (Plastics Engineering, July/August 2014, p4) At ANTEC® 2014, Gail was informed that she had been honored as the Society’s fifth (and first female) elected Distinguished Member. This is the “most prestigious of all membership grades in SPE. All of the Society’s past presidents are Distinguished Members and for a non-past president to rise to the level of Distinguished Member requires a vote of at least two-thirds of all the living past presidents. Prior to ANTEC® 2014, there were only four such elected members.” (Plastics Engineering, July/August 2014, p5)

Gail has been a mainstay of SPE; however her retirement on August 31, 2014, after thirty-three years of service, doesn’t mean that Gail will no longer be involved with the plastics industry. She continues to sit on the committee which reviews SPE scholarship applications and is actively involved with PPA. Gail currently is Vice President of PPA, and is a member of the PPA Board of Governors, as well as the Bylaws, Education, Emeritus, and Strategic Vision Committees.
SOMEONE YOU SHOULD KNOW (CONTINUED)

Gail was born in Buffalo, NY, and grew up in Kenmore, NY, a Buffalo suburb. She has lived in Harrisburg, PA, and Vienna, VA, but raised her children in, and is still a resident of, Brookfield, CT. Gail has two daughters, Kelly and Karen, and three grandchildren (sixteen-year-old Brendan and fifteen-year-old twins Lauren and Sean).

Gail has been an avid volunteer since she was a teen. She was a Girl Scout, a Scout leader in three states, and a member of her Scout Council Board of Directors. In addition, Gail volunteered for the Brookfield school system and has been involved with the American Cancer Society Relay for Life and First Night Danbury (CT). If her SPE work hadn’t kept her busy enough, Gail has been president of her condo board for ten years.

Although Gail has retired, this doesn’t mean she’s just sitting at home. Gail is enjoying the luxury of meeting friends for lunch and being able to spend more time with her daughters, son-in-law Bryan, and especially with her grandchildren. She is also involved with a home renovation project and will be taking a cruise to Alaska in 2015.

The fact that Gail says that she misses interacting with people, and that her greatest strengths are her perseverance and people skills, portends future volunteer projects and, who knows, maybe even a part-time job.

WE FONDLY REMEMBER . . .

JOHN ROGER KENT

John Roger Kent, of Yardley, PA passed away peacefully October 11, 2013 at St. Mary Medical Center in Langhorne, surrounded by his loving family, aged 86 years.

John was born in Rockaway, NY, the son of the late Newton D. and Helen B. Kent. He was a graduate of Lawrence High School in Woodmere, NY and a very proud alumnus of Cornell University class of 1948. A World War II era veteran, John continued the family's unbroken service to the country that dated back to the Revolutionary war.


A founding member at the Society of Plastics Engineers, John was responsible for innovation in the plastics molding industry and held several patents. John retired from Johnson & Johnson in 1992.

An avid sports car enthusiast, he was a 55 year member and former officer of the Porsche Club of America. He enjoyed exhibiting his one of a kind 1964 Porsche 356c, of which he was the original owner, at regional and national events as recently as August of 2013 at the New Hope Auto Show. John was also an active member of the Church of the Incarnation.

John leaves his children, Capt. James Kent USN Ret. (Dena), Steven (Becky), Lynda Romig Bond (Richard), David Romig (Barbara), William Romig (Ginger), Donald Romig (Maureen), numerous grandchildren and four great-grandchildren, as well as several cousins, nieces and nephews. PPA MEMBER SINCE 1978
WE FONDLY REMEMBER . . .

WILLIAM F. MERICLE

William F. Mericle, former Group Vice President and Director of Milacron, died May 15, 2014, age 93.

Bill served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during WWII following graduation from The Ohio State University in 1943 with a BS in Industrial Engineering. He served on several corporate and community boards, among them Milacron, Precision Lens, Clermont Mercy Hospital, Clermont YMCA and Littleford. Bill was named a distinguished alumnus of The Ohio State University in 1982. Bill enjoyed golf and anything outdoors. He served as a past president of Maketewah and Coldstream Country Clubs.

Bill was born to the late Carl and Lois Mericle in Bremen, OH. He was preceded in passing by his first wife, Peggy (Miller), his second wife, Jean (Rogan) and his brother, John. Bill is survived by his wife Robley (Banker) of Jupiter, Florida, and two sons of Peggy Mericle, William F. Mericle, Jr. and John C. (Audrey) Mericle of Cincinnati, Ohio. He is also survived by one grandson, William “Robbie” (Hayden) Mericle of Cincinnati, Ohio.

WE FONDLY REMEMBER . . .

CARL JOSEPH SYMONDS

Carl Joseph Symonds, 93, died after a long illness in Lebanon, NH on February 18, 2014. He was born in Medford, Massachusetts, the son of the late Arthur and Dorothy (Ballentine) Symonds. Carl graduated from Medford High School in 1938 and later attended night classes for 16 years earning both a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Northeastern University.

Early in his career, Carl was employed as a horseback riding instructor where he met the love of his life, and wife of 75 years, Florence (Angell). He was employed at United Carr Fasteners from 1939 to 1965, but was called into service in the United States Army during World War II. He served as a Staff Sergeant and was stationed on Lehte Island in the Phillipines.

He was employed as the General Manager and Vice President for Engineering at GW Plastics in Bethel, Vermont. A registered Professional Engineer in both Vermont and Massachusetts, he retired in 1987 and was still an active member on the Board of Directors at the time of his passing.

Carl was an active member of the United Church of South Royalton for many years, a member of the Rising Sun Lodge #7 F & AM, the Aleppo Temple of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, the Plastics Pioneers and the Society of Plastics Engineers. He served on the Gifford Memorial Hospital Board of Trustees and the Prudential Water Committee in South Royalton.

Carl enjoyed golfing, woodworking, and home projects. He built a cottage on Pratt Pond in New Ipswich, New Hampshire which created a lifetime of wonderful memories for all of his family.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Arthur and Alan Symonds, and two grandsons, Gary Christopher and Scott Christian Symonds. He is survived by his beloved wife Florence; sons Carl, James (Sandra), Gary (Lois), and Pete (Andrea), seven grandchildren and their spouses, nine great grandchildren, and his sister, Elizabeth Irving.
George G. "Skip" Yarnell III, age 66, passed on May 2, 2014 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Skip received his MBA from Xavier University and served in the United States Air Force.

He worked at Cincinnati Milacron for over 40 years and retired as a Vice President. An avid supporter of the Summit Country Day School, Skip was a volunteer coach and mentor to many young men.

Skip is survived by his loving wife Paula (Bien), his two beloved sons; Tyler Richard and Tate Grier (Lauren), brother Jerome (Donna), sisters Sue O'Bannon and Nancy Polder. Skip is also survived by four cherished grandchildren, Hadley, TJ, Lilly and Tucker Yarnell, many nieces, nephews and close friends.

Frank Nissel passed away Aug. 28, 2014 at age 88 in Lafayette Hill, PA after a brief illness.

Frank was born in Germany and, during the Nazi era, his father relocated the family to Egypt where Frank was educated at the American University in Cairo before coming to the United States and getting his MSc in chemical engineering at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He began his plastics career at Bakelite Corporation (Union Carbide) in vinyl calendering development.

In 1956 he left Union Carbide to help found Prodex Corporation, an early U.S. extruder maker, with Al Kaufmann. When Prodex was sold in 1966, Frank partnered with John G. Hendrickson, whose family owned Welding Engineers Inc., to form Welex. Welex become a major sheet line manufacturer and is now part of Graham Engineering Corporation. Frank was 84 years old when he retired from Welex in 2010.

Frank Nissel, an internationally-minded business leader who spoke five languages, was responsible for technical innovations that have made sheet extrusion among the most precisely controlled plastics processes. He was awarded patents in the US and thirteen foreign countries and authored over fifty technical articles and papers for innovations in extrusion and coextrusion processing, barrier packaging, die design, and calendering.

His collaboration on coextrusion with leading packaging producers in Europe and Japan led to its prevalence in those markets and ultimately to the US, where, in the mid-1970s, production of the now famous 4-layer, 2-color party cup began using Welex equipment. Similarly, collaboration in Japan with a pioneering EVOH barrier packaging producer resulted in innovations that made their way to the US in the early 1980s, when the first successful barrier container was produced.

Frank was inducted into the PPA in 1990. He received the SPE Extrusion Division Distinguished Service Award in 1992, became an SPE Fellow in 1993, and in 1995 received the SPE International Award in Business Management. He was inducted into the Plastics Hall of Fame in 2000. Frank was the beloved father of James Nissel (Barbara), Nancy Lewis (Wayne), Laura Shemanski (Joseph Figliolino, Jr.) and was predeceased by his wife Bette.

From Plastics Technology
The PPA Website Committee has successfully launched the new PPA Website. All members are encouraged to view the site at www.plasticspioneers.org and review the content. Members are also encouraged to login. The new website requires all members to login and create a new user name. The old PPA website has been taken down, and the old login credentials are no longer valid for the new website, so make sure you log in and create or update your user profile.

The new PPA website has a revamped format that is more user-friendly. It also has links to other organizations and websites of interest to many PPA members. There are sections in the new website that allow for downloading of newsletters (current and past editions).

We will also begin to post photos in the photo section which will be available for downloading. The new PPA website has a members-only section that allows for secure access to PPA past meeting minutes as well as a full membership directory.

We can help anyone who wishes to register and the Website Committee will offer assistance in setting up the login credentials.

Any comments about the new PPA website regarding content, errors, etc., should be directed to Cathy Connell at cac@chromacolors.com or Steve Sopher at steve.sopher@jsp.com.

The PPA Website Committee has also created a new PPA Group on the LinkedIn website. All members are encouraged to view the group and join by requesting access. You must be a member of LinkedIn to join, so we encourage all PPA members to join LinkedIn (it’s free!) and create an on-line profile.

We can help anyone who wishes to join and will offer assistance in setting up the account. The group can be reached by logging into LinkedIn (www.linkedin.com) and search in the GROUP section for PLASTICS PIONEERS ASSOCIATION.
WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Let us know what is new and exciting in your life, or that of another PPA friend, so we can share it with the rest of the PPA membership.

Keep the letters coming in!
Write, phone, or email to:

The Much Travelled Sheet
27248 Twin Pond Road
Lake Barrington, IL 60010
Phone 847-381-1670
johnblc@gmail.com

Please feel free to view or download this or past versions of the newsletter at
http://www.plasticspioneers.org/

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING MEETINGS:

February 19-22, 2015
Hilton Hotel
San Antonio, TX

October 15-18, 2015
Pittsburgh, PA

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Stefan A. Hershfield       President to 2015 (*)
Gail Bristol              Vice President to 2015
Al Hodge                  Secretary to 2015
Ashby Rice                Treasurer to 2015
Kurt Swogger              Managing Director

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*The President is an ex-officio member of all Committees