

# National Plastics Center Newsletter

## Campaign for Education Update

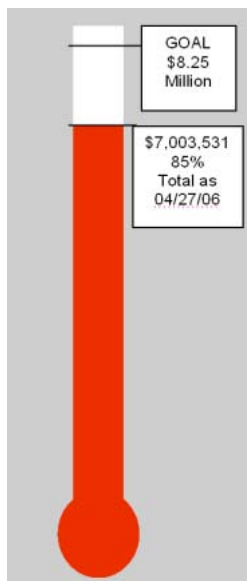
The Campaign for Education to benefit the National Plastics Center has been active for nearly two years. \$7 million dollars has been achieved toward a goal of \$8,250,000. Since the establishment of the National Plastics Center in 1982, philanthropy has driven the Center's destiny. Through the generosity of donors over the years the Center has shown vibrant growth. Donors are proud to support and advance the Center's mission, which is plastics education, primarily through classroom instruction with children and young adults in grades K through 12.

The Center has been privileged to have two outstanding industry leaders co-chair the Campaign for Education. Gordon B. Lankton is Chairman of Nypro Inc. and Donald K. Duncan is Past President of the Society of the Plastic Industry. Both leaders have worked energetically toward the ultimate goal. 85% of the total need has been achieved to date (4/27/06) and now totals \$7,003,531.

Currently over \$2 million has been added to the permanent endowment fund and \$3 million more is expected over time. Efforts to increase the educational PlastiVan program resulted in substantial gifts allowing the Center to add new vans in San Diego and Central Massachusetts. They join the vans now operating in Texas and Michigan. Another grant has been received to provide the same educational experiences for children in Arizona. The National Plastics Center web-site, [www.plasticscenter.org](http://www.plasticscenter.org), has been developed to include plastics education material for distance learning.

Misters Lankton and Duncan have already expressed their appreciation to individuals, companies and foundations, particularly related to the plastics industry for their interest and gifts to the Campaign for Education. They encourage others to join with current contributors who have placed value on the efforts of the National Plastics Center to educate the next generation in the important role plastics play in our lives.

Can you help us attain the goal of \$8,250,000? Request an informative campaign brochure by writing or calling National Plastics Center. ~Philip Warner



Above: Current campaign total

## Harold Holz, Plastics Hall of Fame Inductee and NPC Board Member Dies at 80

Harold A. Holz, Plastics Hall of Fame Inductee and Member of the National Plastics Center Board of Directors, died December 23rd at his home in Old Lyme, Connecticut. Mr. Holz died at the age of 80 after a battle with cancer.

As an active NPC Board Member, Mr. Holz helped guide the center through the last decade. He was a polyethylene specialist and industry activist. After Joining Bakelite Corp. in 1947, Harold Holz pioneered in the growth of markets for polyethylene resins and in their processing. He introduced the low-temperature copolymer ethylene ethyl acrylate into the market for housewares and was active in the marketing of photo-degradable resins.

Survivors include his wife, Joanne, two children, and seven grandchildren.

## Plastics in Rock Climbing



Above: Students climb a rock wall on the NPC lawn during the Plastics in Rock Climbing program held in April.

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## PlastiVan™ Coast to Coast

### News from the Road

The PlastiVan™ Program has completed its 10<sup>th</sup> year of educating the public on all aspects of the plastics and chemical industries and dazzling school children on all the wonders of plastic. As the school year comes to a close, the outreach team is tallying the number of students reached at over a half million. This year alone, over 60,000 students have been educated. The increase in our numbers educated is a direct result of the number four PlastiVan™ in San Diego.

The PlastiVan™ Educators continue to “WOW”, dazzle, excite, intrigue, and change the public’s perception of the plastics and chemical industries. Linda Ball, who many of you remember from DME, has been with the NPC for 4 years. Linda continues to educate students in the mid-western portion of the United States. Shavon Connor, our West Coast Educator will be moving to Wisconsin and sadly leaving the National Plastics Center. She certainly will not be forgotten as we receive nothing but rave reviews from both students and teachers on the West Coast. Julia Richard, our Texas Educator, is expecting her second child in May and will also be leaving the National Plastics Center, we wish her and her family well.

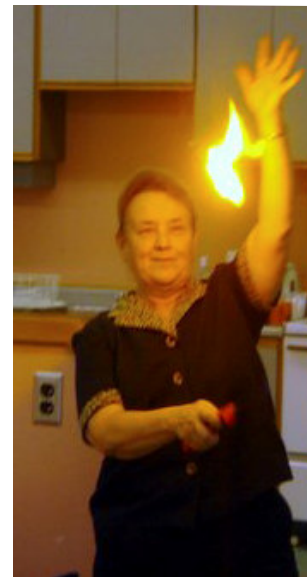
The Outreach team welcomes Bunmi Esho as the West Coast Educator. Bunmi comes to us with a Masters Degree in Education and a Bachelors Degree in Chemical Engineering. She is a great asset to the PlastiVan™ Program, as she also worked for “mad science” an after school program. And has made an impact in San Diego in the short time she has been with the Center.

Now is the time to book the PlastiVan™ for next school year. You and Your Company can make a difference in your community. If you are interested in bringing a PlastiVan™ to your community, contact the NPC outreach department 978-537-9529 x305. The PlastiVan™ program goes everywhere; there is no place that is too far off the beaten path for the PlastiVans™ to visit.

We’ll see you on the road!!

The Outreach Team,

Marjorie Weiner, Linda Ball, Shavon Connor, Julia Richard, and Welcome Bunmi Esho



Above: Linda Ball ignites the imaginations of the future of the plastics industry.

## Center-Based Education

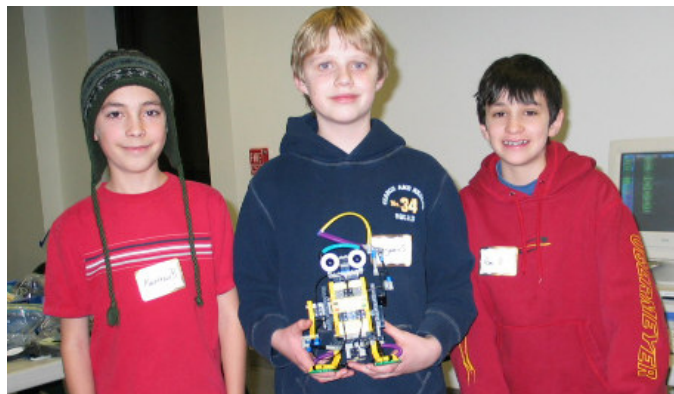
### Center Based Education at the NPC

The National Plastics Center is the most unique museum for student field trips. Other museums have tours and demos; our center based educational programs include hands-on labs and programs for all students. Our major goal is to develop a positive and excited attitude toward science; especially polymer chemistry which is the basics for the plastic industry and plastic technology.

Educational information states that students remember 10% of lecture; 30% of demonstration and 50% of hands-on work. That is why we have 1-3 hours hands-on labs for all students. In the chemistry lab they add cross-link to polymers and make it into solid plastic. In our Green Plastics lab they use agricultural polymers and cross-links (emulsifier) showing how we can make plastics when we run out of petroleum oil. This may be the “front edge” of the plastic industry.  
~Anne Marie Arnold

### NPC Celebrates National Engineers Week

The National Plastics Center celebrated National Engineers Week during the February school vacation week with activities for students in grades K- 10. More than 200 participants enjoyed engineering activities relating to civil, chemical, mechanical, and plastics engineering. NPC educators and graduate students from the University of Massachusetts Lowell campus were on hand to teach students about the role of engineers in today’s society. Students built bridges and towers, explored the properties of adhesives, made rockets, and built computerized robots.



Above: Participants show off their Lego Mindstorm robot that they created during Engineers Week at the NPC in February.

In addition, each day visitors participated in special activities including an interactive demonstration by the Worcester Polytechnic Institute’s Robotics team and a talk by Danielle Froio from the Natick Soldier Center who not only explained the process of engineering U.S. military rations or MREs (meals ready to eat), but brought meals for participants to sample. Students liked the white cake with chocolate frosting, as well as apple pie and chocolate pudding from a tube designed for the Air Force. The sloppy joes, also dispensed from a tube, weren’t as popular. Said one youngster who tried all of the samples, “I needed more apple pie to wash down the sloppy joes.”  
~Marianne Zephir

## Spotlight On:

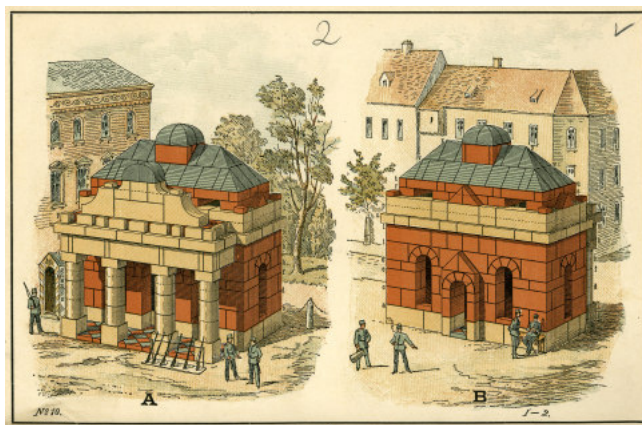
### Richter Building Blocks, c. 1905

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Gift of William Kuhlke, Houston, Texas

Donated in 1999, the set of Richter's "Anchor Blocks" were manufactured in Germany by the Frederich Adolph Richter Company which operated between 1879 and 1963. The red, white, and blue blocks, patented in 1900, are highly collectable and made from a mixture of chalk, sand, and linseed varnish. The architectural blocks are molded in shapes-- cubes, spheres, arches, and cylinders—that allow the builder to create architectural forms such as castles, temples, towers, bridges, and any number of classical structures in miniature.

Five beautifully illustrated design manuals include instructions in thirteen languages as well as paper figures and landscape features for budding young architects to add scale and decoration to their models. According to one manual, the paper figures "serve as lifelike accessories...They are vigorous representations of many types of humanity in many countries, at several historical eras and they fit in well with the several types of architecture in the 'Anchor' designs." Judging from the well worn manuals and figures included with the NPC set of blocks, the former owner agreed. The manuals are dog-eared



Above: The Guard-House from design manual No. 10

and the figures and landscape cutouts are well used. Pencil checkmarks found on many of the pages, suggest a young designer enjoyed checking-off designs as they were made. The Richter Building Blocks are currently on display with other natural plastics at the center's museum in Leominster.

~Marianne Zephir

## Gifts in Kind

Our sincere thanks to the following donors for their gifts of time, materials, equipment, and supplies:

Jack Kalagher and Cheever Specialty Products, Inc. for three desks and a filing cabinet.

Tom Ricciardelli of SelecTech, Inc. for "Cork" tiles made from recycled plastic used in our lobby to make a floor mat.

United Plastics of Leominster for loaning us their LCD projector.

Ron DiNinno of DiNinno Advertising, Design & Public Relations for installing a new audio system.

Greg Basque of Basque Plastics of Leominster for the repair and maintenance of our injection molding machine.

Amy Dean and Dianne Holloway for tours of Wiltec for the Plastics is my Bag™ group.

Jim LeBlanc for the tour of Fosta Tech also for the Plastics is My Bag™ group.

David Rondeau and Glen Bousquet technicians from U Mass Lowell, for fixing the Instron Machine.

Jim Legacy and Mass Wildlife Angler Education for rods and tackle for Plastics in Fishing.

Society of the Plastics Industry (SPI) for providing the NPC with a booth at the National Plastics Exposition (NPE) in Chicago, in June.

Cote's E T & Son Auto Parts for the donation for Plastics in Automobiles.

Greenleaf Recycled Auto Parts for the donation for Plastics in Automobiles.

New England Ropes for their donation of lines and line samples for Plastics in Rock Climbing.

And all of the volunteers who helped make National Engineer's Week a big success: Danielle Froio from Natick Labs for her talk and the samples of military rations (MREs), Phil Rossoni for the Walk along glider activity, Anthony Culmone for assisting with the Robotics program, Ken Stafford and the WPI Robotics team for their robotics demonstration. Professor Carol Barry, and U Mass Lowell students, Bhavjit Ghumann, Jamie Cushman, Becky Shaw, John Mooski, Dan Murphy, and Scott Slabaugh, we couldn't have done it without them!

## Membership

### Support the NPC

Did you know that the National Plastics Center educated more than 60,000 students in 2005? Center-Based educators conducted hands-on science programming at our headquarters in Leominster, Mass., while our acclaimed PlastiVan's™ traveled throughout the United States teaching students, educators and the public about the chemistry, history, processing and environmental issues involved with plastics.

We accomplished a great deal last year. The staff and board of directors developed a new direction for the NPC that emphasizes our core business: plastics education. We have a new strategic plan, a new web site, a new Logo, and have undertaken a Campaign for Education which will help us realize our goals. We have also expanded our PlastiVan™ program to the west coast. The National Plastics Center now has four vans across the country located in Michigan, Texas, Massachusetts, and California. And we have developed new educational programs including Green Plastics, and the Magic of Plastics for Preschoolers.

The NPC plans to continue the expansion of the PlastiVan™ fleet to the Midwest and the Southeast. And we are currently developing a distance learning program via the World Wide Web to offer our educational programs to students and adults all over the world. By expanding our services and programming we fulfill our mission to provide educational programs that inspire, preserve, and advance plastics and the valuable contributions that plastics make in the quality of our lives.

To continue our work, we need your help. Consider becoming a member of the National Plastics Center. As an NPC member, you receive free admission to the Center, free use of the library and archives, reciprocal admission to other science centers through the Association of Science-Technology Centers (ASTC) program, but most importantly, your membership contribution will help ensure plastics education for the next generation. A membership form is located on the last page of this newsletter.

~Marianne Zephir



## Membership Application

Yes! I want to enjoy the many benefits of membership by joining the National Plastics Center. I have enclosed my membership contributions of:

- \$25 Individual     \$50 Family     \$100 Contributing     \$250 Supporting  
 \$500 Company/Sustaining     \$1000 & above for JWH

Enclosed is my membership gift in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Also enclosed is an additional gift in the amount of: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Print Clearly:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_