



National Plastics Center Newsletter

The PlastiVan™ Program Grows to Four Vans

The Outreach Department is happy to report the newest base of operation in San Diego, California. As part of the National Plastics Center's "Campaign for Education", the outreach department has expanded the educational reach of the PlastiVan™ program to serve the plastics community in the western portion of North America. The West Coast operation is supported by Nypro, Inc. and Nypro San Diego will serve as a home base for the PlastiVan™. Since the inception of the PlastiVan™ program, the NPC's outreach team has educated over 500,000 students across North America. As an introduction to the west coast, the PlastiVan™ is scheduled to visit all eighth grade classes in San Diego. The PlastiVan™ will be visiting many communities in the western and southwestern portion of the United States. ~ Marjorie Weiner



Above: San Diego PlastiVan™



Above: SPE Thermo Division members with a PlastiVan™. (left to right: Walt Walker, Jack Hill, Marjorie Weiner, Roger Kipp, Steve Murrill)

SPE Thermoforming Division Donations

The SPE Thermoforming Division has generously donated a new van to the Outreach Department, as well as new lap top computers for the outreach educators, and transportable thermoforming machines for each van. The Division also participates in a matching funds program which matches the cost of a PlastiVan™ Program for a thermoforming company. "We are happy to support the National Plastics Center as we meet our mission of reaching the next generation so that we can develop new young polymer scientists, which is important to the future of the plastics industry" says Roger Kipp, SPE Thermoforming Division Chair and Vice President of McClarin Plastics Inc.

The Thermoforming Division has been a long time supporter of the PlastiVan™ Program, and is a past recipient of the National Plastic Center's Outstanding Service Award. This new van will be used as a replacement van for the original 1995 Van that has traveled across the US 4 times and has well over 200,000 miles on the odometer. ~ Marjorie Weiner

A Reminder for Year End Giving

Charitable contribution incentives for cash gifts are temporarily increased. The Hurricane Katrina Relief Bill, signed into law September 23rd, has made changes to tax law designed to encourage certain outright gifts of cash made during the period 8/28-12/31/2005. Highlights of this bill include:

- The contribution limit for certain outright gifts of cash has increased from 50% of adjusted gross income (AGI) to 100%.
- These same gifts are also exempt from the 3% reduction in itemized deductions for individuals with an AGI over \$145,950.
- Gifts to a private foundation, supporting organization, or donor advised fund do not qualify for the higher limit or the 3% rule exemption.

Under existing law, the maximum amount of cash contributions that is deductible in any one year is 50% of AGI. That limit is being increased to 100% in the case of certain cash gifts made during the stipulated period.

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Campaign for Education

Campaign Enters Public Phase

Remarks by David Hahn, President of the National Plastics Center on September 25, 2005 at a meeting of the National Board announcing the public kick-off of the Campaign for Education.



Above: President, David Hahn

We are excited about the future of the National Plastics Center as we grow to meet the needs of our constituency. We have a wonderful story to tell of education and outreach over our past 23 years. Now is the time to add and expand on that initiative. That's why the National Plastics Center has undertaken a \$10,000,000 Campaign. Our distinguished Co-Chairs, Gordon Lankton,

Chairman of the Board of Nypro Inc. of Clinton, Massachusetts and Donald Duncan, immediate Past President of the Society of the Plastics Industry along with other Board members are spearheading this effort.

Funds for this Campaign for Education will be raised in three areas: annual giving, capital giving, and endowment.

Capital gifts will be used to double the number of students reached in our PlastiVan™ programs throughout North America. Our Center-Based programs in Leominster, Massachusetts will also be increased in keeping with our mission statement: "to inspire young people in Grades K through 12 to learn more about the world of plastics." These programs advance awareness about the positive aspects of the plastic industry as well as the many opportunities for life-long careers in the Plastics Industry, the third largest in the United States. Capital gifts will also be used to preserve artifacts and archives of this industry's illustrious past, and to maintain the Plastics Hall of Fame. Another focus of the Campaign for Education is to implement advanced web-based technologies to enable the

Plastics center to become a premier source of information on the history, development and current events of the plastics industry.

Annual gifts will help maintain our existing programs. Interest earned from a significant endowment will help to perpetuate and improve the Center and its existing medical and environmental interactive exhibits and other displays.

The response from our Board has been overwhelming. One hundred percent of our Board has combined gifts totaling over 60 percent of the goal. Now we announce our public phase to include companies and individuals who owe their livelihood to this industry.

We ask your help by considering five year pledged gifts to the campaign. We are asking for generous, thoughtful, and proportionate giving. Please give our volunteers a warm welcome when they call. Information is available from our Board members, staff, and professional fundraisers.

We are hopeful that living members of the Plastics Hall of Fame, families and companies of deceased members, and those who are Plastics Pioneers Association members will help to perpetuate the plastics legacy of bygone days, by fostering the educational efforts of the National Plastics Center for future days.

With the help of pioneers, individuals, and companies, the National Plastics Center will build upon its first two decades of outstanding educational outreach and service inspiring all those who have contact, while continuing to preserve and advance everything that makes this industry so special.

Volunteers and staff are available to meet with you to discuss our campaign and your involvement. Call a Board member for information, visit our website; www.plasticsmuseum.org, write to National Plastics Center, 210 Lancaster Street, Leominster, Massachusetts 01453, or call 978-537-9529 and request a brochure. ~ David Hahn & Philip Warner

PlastiVan™

News from the Road

The outreach department is very excited to announce the hiring of two new outreach educators for the PlastiVan™ program.

Shavon Zerby is our West Coast and Southwest PlastiVan™ educator. She is already making an impact on the students in San Diego. Shavon is a high energy individual with a love of teaching. Shavon has lots to offer the students, teachers and the NPC. She is a fantastic asset to the outreach team.

Julia Richard is our new South Eastern educator, Julia is based in Houston, Texas and has been dazzling students and sponsors in the Carolinas this past fall. Julia is an enthusiastic educator who has said "this is the best, it is so much fun to see the kids understand science". Julia is a great asset to the outreach team.



Above: Shavon Zerby and Julia Richard

The Wonder, the Wisdom and the WOW of the National Plastics Center

The National Plastics Center & Museum's Education Programs delight and dazzle; excite and educate audiences of all ages about the manufacturing, chemistry, history, environmental issues, application and social impact of plastics. Since the inception of the PlastiVan™ Program 9 years ago, the four PlastiVan™s have educated and changed public perception of the plastics industry to over two hundred and fifty thousand school children across the United States and Canada. NPC educators excite; intrigue and peak students' interests in all facets of the industry. Book your school now call:978-527-9529 X305

Center-Based Education

A Place for Celebration, Learning, and Fun

This summer the National Plastics Center had a steady stream of visitors. Afternoon programs from 1-3 pm featured regular demonstrations and activities. Programs included a modified chemistry program, a hands-on plastic processing program, and plastic arts and crafts. The arts and crafts activity offered students the opportunity to be ecologically conscientious by weaving grocery bags into satchels as reeds have been used for centuries. The art class continued to spur other ideas including party favors, toys, and flowers.

While the Leominster Public Library is in temporary quarters during their multi-year renovation project, the NPC's Keville Room has been the setting for many of the library's children's programs. Anywhere from 50 to 300 children participated in 'Bubblemania', 'Spooky stories' and other library activities.

With the crisp autumn air and children going back to school, the Center is welcoming back another year of field trips. Plastics Is My Bag™, the year long series of Plastics classes, has another 45 students participating. In November, the NPC is preparing the next generation of tool and die manufacturers and plastics engineers. Students design and build prototype injection molds. They each build an "A" side and the "B" side, equipped with knock-out pins and cooling lines. We use kid-friendly tools and



Above: Bill Tolos teaches the science behind rockets during a summer program at the NPC.

products, but the principles are the same. In addition, children become acquainted with different types of engineering testing. Students learn to gather data about material properties that will contribute to the decisions manufacturers make before putting a product on the market. Students test materials' hardness, flexibility, tensile, impact, and compression. They prick, bend, stretch, smash and crush plastics. Students compare products under different temperatures and recognize the challenges in making products that can withstand the elements.

There has been a rising interest in the new Green Plastics Lab. Students participate in a two hour lab and make plastics from agricultural polymers. Gelatin, agar, soybean oil flakes and beeswax are being cross linked to make buttons, plastic sheets, candles, crayons, a decoration, and even hand cream.

High school, and now junior high students, are learning about emulsifiers, hydrophobic and hydrophilic plastics. Students go back to school with a bag full of usable products, all from the green plastics lab. Finally, Saturday activities such as children's birthday parties and scout meetings, are on the rise, illustrating that there is no place like the National Plastics Center for celebration, learning, and fun. ~ Barb Bennett

Events and Functions



Above: Plastics Hall of Fame Members (left to right); Frank M. Chapman, G. Palmer Humphrey, Michael F.X. Gigliotti, Harold A. Holz, Glenn L. Beall, John R. Kretschmar, Donald L. Peters

Hall of Fame & P.P.A. September Festivities

The Plastics Hall of Fame inducted five posthumous members at festivities that included the Plastics Pioneers Association (PPA) meeting, at the National Plastics Center on September 17, 2005. The inductees include; Edwin F. Bushman, Denes B. Hunkar, Thomas J. Morton, Jr., Giulio Natta, and Alexander Parkes. For the first time, nominations for non-U.S. citizens were accepted, and two members from outside the United States were selected for induction, Giulio Natta of Italy, and Alexander Parkes of England. PPA members enjoyed touring the museum and participating in demonstrations and hands-on labs during the day. The evening Posthumous Induction Ceremony was followed by a black-tie dinner where awards and scholarships were distributed. Nominations for the next Living Plastics Hall of Fame Induction are due December 31, 2005. Nomination forms are available from The Plastics Academy, 978-537-9529. The next Plastics Hall of Fame Induction will be held on June 19, 2006 in the Chicago Hilton and Towers Hotel during the National Plastics Exposition (NPE).

Meet and Greet

The National Plastics Center has had the good fortune for the last three years to entertain tour buses of seniors on fall foliage trips from Connecticut and New York. As the person who greets our guests, there is nothing better than to engage in conversations with seniors, with varied backgrounds ranging from biotech engineers to retired school teachers, all willing to share their life's experience. We look forward to expanding this program in the future.

Our function space, the Keville Room, has been getting some unusual use over the last few months. We've hosted a bridal shower, Boy Scouts of America Council meeting, Letter Box gathering, Headstart Seminar, and a fashion show, to name a few. If you or someone you know is interested in renting the facility, please call for details. ~ Deb Renzi

Book Your Holiday Party Now

The Keville Room at the NPC is the perfect setting for a holiday celebration. Located in the heart of Worcester County, the Keville Room is one of New England's premier meeting and convention facilities and offers a unique and elegant setting for weddings and special events, corporate functions such as meetings, parties, seminars and workshops. The Keville Room accommodates up to 200 people, has a fully equipped kitchen, ample parking, is ADA accessible, and catering is available upon request. Tours of the Center's museum are also available upon request.



Rental fees include:

- Exclusive use of the Keville Room and Doyle Library.
- Expert planning guidance from the NPC event staff.
- Supervisor for the day.
- Assistance with onsite ceremonies.
- Coordination of deliveries.
- Use of comfortable chairs and tables in a variety of sizes.
- One-year National Plastics Center membership

Call today to schedule your holiday party: 978-537-9529

Holiday Gift Sale

During the month of December, the Center will offer 10%-60% off of the retail price of gift shop merchandise and NPC annual memberships. Pink Flamingos, toys, books and other unusual 'plastic' items offered at the lowest prices of the year. Enjoy hot cider and listen to holiday music while you browse through books and our unusual offerings. Gift shop is open Wednesday through Saturday, 11-4:00. (Pictured on right: Pink Flamingos, one of the unique gifts that can be found in the NPC gift shop.)



Volunteer Opportunities

We are seeking volunteers at the National Plastics Center in Leominster, Massachusetts in the following areas:

Collections Assistant. Assist with organizing and cataloging the center's collection of 19th and 20th century objects and archives. Assist with all or any of the following: object handling and storage; research and cataloging; records creation and data entry into the museum's new collections management database; digital photography; exhibits and displays.

Visitor Services Assistant. Assist at the front desk with registering visitors and collecting admission fees; sell merchandise in our gift shop.

Museum Docents. Give tours of the museum, assist with public programs, group tours and school groups; answer questions about the museum and the exhibits.

Administration Assistants. Assist with administrative tasks including bulk mailing, database management, updating our website.

Maintenance Person. Help with tasks throughout building including repairs, general maintenance and moving objects.

Become a Member

With your support, the NPC will continue our mission to provide sound scientific educational programs to the public by increasing the public's awareness of the valuable contributions that plastics make in the quality of our lives.

As a member you help support educational programs, exhibitions, historical conservation, research, community activities, and the Plastics Hall of Fame.

Depending on the membership level, NPC's members receive free museum admission, free reciprocal admission at more than 200 museums across the country, discounts on programs and gift shop items, complimentary guest passes, announcements and invitations to special events, the NPC newsletter, and discounts on Keville Room rentals. See back page for membership application.

An NPC membership makes the perfect holiday gift!



Spotlight On:

NPC's Archival Collections

The National Plastics Center's archives hold thousands of documents, photographs, and ephemera. Advertisements, company files, periodicals, and books are located in our research library located in the Doyle Library; our fragile and valuable archives are held safely in storage. Stored items include nineteenth century books, hand colored drawings, photographs, and a slide library of more than 3000 images.

One of the most interesting archives is the [Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of the Celluloid Company, Volume A](#). The leather bound, handwritten ledger documents the meetings held by the Celluloid Company's executives covering the period from December 17, 1890 through February 21, 1905. The volume's historical references include a report on the September 4, 1898 disastrous fire at the company. The September 8 entry recounts a report given by the president which relates that the fire started in a warehouse in Newark that was "used for the storage and assorting of scrap" that destroyed the building and its contents. The fire spread to "dwelling houses on the same block and across Darcy Street."

Twenty-four homes were destroyed and thirty occupants were burned; two people died.

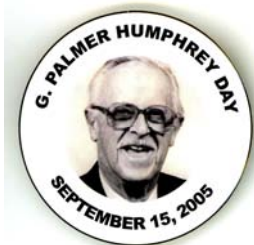
The benevolent company set up a fund for the victims, paid the funeral expenses for the two who died, and set aside \$2,500 to assist in the relief of those who lost their homes as a result of the fire. An entry two and a half months later from December 20, 1898, illustrates that while the executives accepted responsibility for the loss of life and property, the Celluloid Company was fully aware of the legal implications of the accident. The recording secretary noted that the company awarded "two principal sufferers...the sum of \$1,850, [which] was gratefully received by them, it being distinctly understood that our action was solely on the grounds of humanity and expressly denying any liability legal or equitable; that all the surviving members of both families had voluntarily given this company a release of all claims for damages to themselves or their property arising from said fire". ~ *Marianne Zephir*

To view the museum's archival collections or to use the research library, please call to schedule an appointment.

Recent Acquisitions

The National Plastics Center collects and preserves objects and personal histories of industry leaders and the products and equipment that have shaped the development of plastics and the plastics industry. The center's collections support in-house and traveling exhibitions, educational programs, and virtual displays.

Fifteen books authored by Dominick V. Rosato, Donald V. Rosato, and Matthew V. Rosato. The five titles relate to plastic materials, processes, and product design. Gift of Donald V. Rosato.



Above: G. Palmer Humphrey pin/button

Twentieth century plastic items including a paper towel holder made by Tucker Housewares of Leominster and a "Swinger" hairbrush and comb set made by Dupont. Gift of Barbara Lanza.

Blue Tupperware pitcher with a molded handle and detachable lid, part of the "Millionaire line." Manufactured in Farnumsville, Massachusetts c. 1954. Gift of Marilyn Zavorski

Model of an Injection Molding Machine given to Ralph B. Waldron at a Testimonial dinner in honor of his retirement from American Optical in 1971. Gift of Janet Waldron Holz.

G. Palmer Humphrey pin /button made for the Hall of Fame member's 'roast' at the Plastics Pioneers Meeting on September 15, 2005. Gift of the Plastics Pioneers Association.

Plastic parts including early keyboard keys and acrylic mirror frames. Gift of Richard F. Stott of Stott Tool and Machine Company, NY.

Gifts in Kind



Above: Chilewich Plynyl™ Floormat, and Heller roto molded MB chairs in NPC lobby

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

Basque Plastics of Leominster, MA for repairing our injection molding machine

Chilewich of New York, NY for the Plynyl™ Floormat for our newly designed lobby

David Zephir for his design services

Heller Incorporated of New York, NY for two roto molded MB chairs also for our lobby

Thermo Plastics from Georgetown, DE for PVC tubing that will be used by volunteer Phil Rossoni to construct a tsunami model

United Plastics of Leominster for storage containers and for lending us their LCD projector



National Plastics Center

210 Lancaster Street
Leominster, MA 01453

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 _____