Grosch, Hertz, Erman, Mars and Meier Are Award Winners

Mars is Sparks-Thomas choice
Dr. William Mars, an internationally recognized leader in the area of failure mechanics of rubber components, is the 2007 Sparks-Thomas Award winner. This award, sponsored by ExxonMobil Chemical, recognizes and encourages outstanding scientific contributions and innovations in the field of elastomers by younger scientists, technologists and engineers. Mars’ professional activity has focused generally on applying experimental and computational mechanics in pursuit of better-performing rubber products. His experiences and contributions span a topic range including material characterization, product evaluation, constitutive modeling, crack nucleation, fracture mechanics and fatigue life prediction methods. He has authored over 20 articles in refereed journals, and he has one patent. He obtained his BSME, with a polymer specialization, at the University of Akron, and his Ph.D. at the University of Toledo. He is currently employed in the research department at Cooper Tire & Rubber in Findlay, OH. He is also an adjunct faculty member in the MIME department at the University of Toledo, where he has taught graduate courses in continuum mechanics and fracture mechanics.

Meier Earns TPE Award
Dr. Dale J. Meier, Distinguished Fellow, professor and program manager at Michigan Molecular Institute, has been chosen to receive the 2007 Chemistry of Thermoplastic Elastomers Award. This award honors significant contributions to the advancement of the chemistry of TPEs is sponsored by Advanced Elastomer Systems. Meier received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1951 after obtaining his M.S. and B.S. at the California Institute of Technology. He joined Shell Chemical in 1951 as a physical chemist. He was named supervisor of research in 1956 for Shell, a position he held until 1968. In 1968-69 he was a visiting scientist, at Koninklijke/Shell in The Netherlands. He returned to Shell in California in 1969 and was a project leader and supervisor of research before joining Michigan Molecular Institute in 1972. Along with his work at MMI, he currently is adjunct professor at Michigan Technological University, Case Western University and Central Michigan University. He has two edited books and over 90 papers and patents on polymer physics, block copolymers, silicone chemistry, polymer rheology, inorganic and colloid chemistry. His paper “Theory of Block Copolymers,” (J. Polymer Sci. C 26, 81, 1969) was selected as one of the 12 most significant papers published in the past 50 years by the Journal in 1997. He won an ACS research award in 1983 and a teaching award in 2003.