

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER 2006

The Blow Molding division of the SPE has bestowed its highest honor to Martin Stark, President and Chief Operating Officer of Bekum America Corporation, for his lifelong contributions to the Blow Molding industry.

After completing his education at Handelsschule Business college, Dillngen, Germany he became an apprentice at Ködel & Böhm Maschinenfabrik, Lauingen, Germany. From here he worked at Robert Bosch Hausgeraete GmbH – Giengen, Germany and then came to the United States and was employed at Battenfeld Corp. of America – Skokie, Illinois where he advanced to become a Vice President-Operations.

Then in 1981 he accepted a position with Bekum America Corporation – Williamston, Michigan where served as Materials Manager, Vice President of Operations, Vice President-General Manager. He became President and Chief Operating Officer 1992 where he continues to lead the company today.

During his 37 years of service in Plastics Industry he has served as,

- Chairman of the SPI Machinery Division Blow Molding Section
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Society of the Plastics Industry
- Chairman of the first Michigan Plastics Summit Meeting at the Lansing Center with over 400 attendees, bringing together government, educators and industry
- Chairman of the Planning Committee of the Society of the Plastics Industry Machinery Division
- Chairman of the Society of the Plastics Industry Machinery Division
- Chairman of the Machinery Division Membership Committee.
- Chairman of the Blow Molding Section for the Committee on Equipment Statistics (CES) Executive Board.
- Member of SPI Committee on Equipment Statistics (CES)
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Society of the Plastics Industry
- Director of the SPI Midwest Section

His industry contributions include;

- Led Bekum America's development of H-155 line in North America. This line is now the workhorse of the industry.
- Successfully introduced Bekum America's industrial line, leading to the first U.S. produced 6-layer plastic fuel tank producing tanks for the Chrysler mini van.
- Spearheaded the drive to integrate in-mold labeling into shuttle type blow molding machinery.
- Developed Michigan's best Apprenticeship Program, and graduated youngest ever U.S. "School to Registered Apprentice" (STRA) journeymen.
- Established a scholarship program at Williamston High School wherein a graduating senior is awarded annually a stipend towards continuing education in either a manufacturing or plastics career.

He has been recognized as a Member of Plastics Pioneers Association, in recognition of over 30 years of service in furthering the plastic industry. Inducted into Ferris State University Phoenix Society. Supporter of Ferris State University Plastics Engineering Program, including placing on consignment a Bekum blow molding machine for use by Ferris State students for the advancement and development of plastics machinery knowledge.



Martin presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award by Gary Carr.



4 Lifetime Achievement Award winners; Micheal Gillotti, Martin Stark, Robert DeLong, Robert Slawska