Follow Up From IEC

Thank you to all sponsors, exhibitors, speakers, attendees and partners who helped make this year's International Elastomer Conference a success!

At IEC 2019, we introduced several new components and initiatives, including a Women's Preconference Workshop, Presentations Skills Workshop and Get Involved sessions. All of these were positively received and we plan to expand on these as we move forward and continue to grow IEC. Here are some wrap up IEC numbers:

After our reconciliation and clean up, we had 4,299 attendees.
- 85% from U.S.
- 15% International from 35 countries – Highest attendance from: Canada, China, Mexico, Japan, Germany, Republic of Korea, Italy and India

# of Exhibitors: 278
- 213 from U.S.
- 65* International from 13 Countries
*Many exhibitors/companies operate worldwide with many locations throughout the U.S. and other countries.

We are committed to keeping IEC the premier U.S. conference in our industry, and we will continue to work to make IEC beneficial and of value for all involved. Mark your calendars for IEC 2020 - October 20-22, 2020 in Knoxville, TN!

Here are some photos from the International Elastomer Conference in Cleveland last month.
Below are the strong, intelligent and beautiful women who participated in our Women of Rubber Division Workshop.

WATCH OUR IEC WRAP UP VIDEO
Get Involved with Rubber Division, ACS

Ever wonder how becoming active within Rubber Division, ACS can benefit you and your company, what opportunities are available or what it takes to get involved? Contact us to learn about the requirements, expectations and commitment to be a volunteer, serve on a committee, be an Area Director, become a part of our Steering Committee and take the journey on the path to Chair of the division. Individuals who currently serve in these roles are here to provide information, guide you and answer any questions you have.

Contact our Team Today

Rubber Zone Member Site and Mentor Match

We will be rolling our new version of your member login portal. With our new partner Higher Logic, we will be offering a whole new way for members to engage with others in the industry, develop a mentor relationship, share ideas and collaborate with each other!

MENTORS - we are looking for seasoned people in our industry to enroll as mentors for our younger generation of members. We are also looking for people to enroll as mentees.

Please contact me if you are interested. Your information is valuable and you are important to us and the industry!

Enroll As A Mentor or a Mentee
Blair Rubber Company understands the importance of educating today’s youth about the opportunities in the rubber manufacturing industry. The future of manufacturing depends on the focus of the current generation to educate the next generation about the importance of the manufacturing industry in the economy. Blair Rubber Company would like to share opportunities experienced in 2019 with other manufacturers.

The month of May was very busy for Blair Rubber Company’s educational outreach. On May 17, 2019 Kristopher Meyer, Quality Control, attended Visintainer Middle School in Brunswick, OH to educate the students on the rubber industry. Kristopher shared his experience below.

"On Friday May 17, 2019 I had the wonderful pleasure of attending a career day at Visintainer Middle School in Brunswick, Ohio. The goal was to educate several classes of middle school students on the aspects of manufacturing work. This would include things like, what a typical day consists of. What your job responsibilities include, what qualifications you need to perform them and the opportunities available for advancement in your field."
I gave the same 25 minute presentation to multiple classes full of students who were eager to hear about the importance of manufactured goods and the quality control requirements for constructing product. Relaying the importance of conforming product and how quality rubber lining keeps the world safe from harmful or corrosive items contaminating the environment. I followed this with a brief review of our manufacturing process and how each step requires quality verification to make sure we are producing product that adheres to our quality standards.

I cannot thank Ms. Rhodes, the teachers and children of Visintainer Middle School enough for the opportunity to share my career with them. I hope that I was able to relay both the importance of the manufacturing sector in today's job market and the dynamic need for good quality support in those plants. It truly was a pleasure and I hope I was able to inspire young minds to think about how even the person whom makes the tool is important to completing a job well done."

Dr. Tonjua McCullough headed to Black River High School to participate in Career Day on May 20, 2019. Dr. McCullough set up the Blair Rubber table in one of the classrooms and groups of students came to the classroom to hear about the exciting career opportunities in the rubber industry. The event lasted the entire school day, so all students were able to participate in the event.

The Sophomore Class from Cloverleaf High School toured the Blair Rubber facility on May 22, 2019. Students learned about the different career opportunities and got to see firsthand how rubber tank lining is manufactured. (Pictured below is a group of the students on the plant tour).

The summer months cannot be complete without the Cloverleaf High School interns. Blair Rubber hired two interns for the summer. One intern worked with the Maintenance Department for mechanical engineering. The other intern worked with the Accounting Department. The accounting/office intern decided to change her major from Engineering to Business once she graduates from high school. Both interns enjoyed the experience at Blair Rubber.

Blair Rubber celebrated Manufacturing Day by exhibiting in the Made in Medina County Expo on October 4, 2019. Approximately 550 students attended to give Blair Rubber a great opportunity to educate students about the rubber industry.

Dr. McCullough represents Blair Rubber Company on the Education Committee of the Medina County Economic Development Corporation and suggested to the committee (which includes school superintendents) to focus on skills. The school superintendents agreed to promote “What is your skill?” for an entire week. Each school will have visiting speakers from various manufacturers in the community to educate students on the importance of skills and determining what careers fit with those skills. Stay tuned for the outcome of the skills promotion.
CALLING ALL RUBBER PLANTS!

Rubber Division, ACS has student chapters around the world. We are looking for rubber plants who would allow our student chapter members to tour. Here are the location of our current student chapters:

**United States**
Ferris State University (supported by the West Michigan Rubber Group)
University of Massachusetts-Lowell
(supported by the New England Rubber & Plastics Group)
The University of Akron (supported by the Ohio Rubber Group)
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (supported by the Blue Ridge Rubber Group)

**International**
Brazilian Universities Student Chapter (supported by ABTB-Brazilian Association of Rubber Technology)

*Partnering Universities:*
- Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul
- Unisinos-Universidade do Vale do Rio dos Sinos
- University of Brasília
- Universidade de Caxias do Sul
Lodz University of Technology, Faculty of Chemistry Student Chapter in Poland
If you have a plant or know of a plant in any of these areas, please contact me so that we can set up a tour for our student chapter members. It is our responsibility to train and encourage the next generation of professionals in the rubber industry!

**Sign Up For a Plant Tour**

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**Share Your Stories Around the World**

We believe that our members are the life-blood of this organization. Do you know that 30% of our membership base is from outside of the United States?! We have members from Argentina and Australia all the way to Pakistan, Malaysia and also corporate members from Sri Lanka!

Share your stories with us and we can share them around the globe! We are looking to continually engage our members, and one of the ways we know people are engaged is through PHOTOS. We will be rolling out our new Higher Logic Member Platform and I would like to feature fun photos of our members in the industry.

Send me photos of your workplace, your employees participating in events, other shows you attend, your colleagues having fun, etc. Send them with a small caption and we will feature your photo in the newsletter and in our member portal over time *(pictures will be posted at the discretion of RD staff)*.

If you have any other ideas of fun ways to engage our members, email me and let me know. Here are some photos and videos that I found on social media *(which I will continue to do until the stories come flooding in)*.

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Congratulations to Xianjie Ren on his Best Student Presentation Award at the 2019 IEC! His presentation was titled "Liquid Guayule Natural Rubber, a Renewable, Multifunctional Rubber Additive." Alpha Technologies had the pleasure of partnering with Mr. Ren to achieve valuable test data for his research. They pride themselves on partnering with companies and individuals that successfully invest in

Ed Miller has served as the Rubber Division, ACS executive director for almost 19 years and has been the only individual to hold this position. He will be retiring on January 15, 2020, which is his 19th anniversary with Rubber Division, ACS. Lakisha Miller-Barclay will be the Rubber Division, ACS executive director effective January 1, 2020.

A retirement party was held in Ed's honor at the International Elastomer Conference last month. Pictured above is Ed Miller with the women team
advancement. How can you seize opportunities?

Corporate Member Rahco Rubber: Making a Difference

Rahco Rubber, Inc. provided support to CROP Hunger Walks and applauded its own Juan Diaz for participating in Chicago in October, which locally raised more than $23,700 to help end hunger.

“Giving back to the community is extremely important to us, along with supporting our people and the culture we create together,” said Steve Anton, president of Rahco Rubber. “We are very proud of Juan’s support and CROP Hunger Walk efforts. Juan is an amazing person and a very valuable team member, and his contributions to our company and the community reflect a passion to make a positive impact.”

How can you make a difference by utilizing the resources you already have in place?

Share Your Stories!

We are excited and pleased to announce that ARDL’s Kylie Knipp has been selected to chair Rubber Division, ACS’s new Young Professionals Committee. The committee encourages young professional participation across all aspects of Rubber Division, ACS by facilitating networking opportunities and improving these Young Professionals’ professional/technical development through providing networking opportunities and learning activities. Through the Young Professionals Committee, the Division looks to achieve increased participation in technical sessions.

Pictured above are RDAbbott employees having fun at work again! Keep it up!
authoring papers and poster presentations, planning and organizing committees, creating social/networking events and developing a community for the next generation of our great industry.

How many rubber bands does it take to split a pumpkin? What's your guess?

What are fun ways we can involve the next generation in STEM / Rubber activities? Send our team your ideas!

A Digital Collection of Stories in History

From the famous, to the infamous, to the never heard of, *The Story Podcast* are the unknown backstories of people who have changed the world. History builds the present. Where we are today is a result of where we have been. Yet, some of the stories that got us here have remained in the shadows. And the true stories of the people and inventions that have built our world are often lost to time. Our only hope for building a better future is to truly understand what got us to the present.

Click the button below to listen to the story of a man on a mission. Season 3 of *The Story* features twelve technology trailblazers who started a business that changed the world.

What will your story be?

[Listen to an Episode of The Story](#)
Upcoming Local Rubber Group Events

Attend one of the local rubber group/affiliated technical organization's events of 2019. Here are a few of the events happening soon:

**Detroit Rubber Group:** November 20 – Fall Technical Symposium; December 2 – Holiday Board Meeting
**Los Angeles Rubber Group:** December 7 – Christmas Party; Hilton Orange County Costa Mesa
**Mexico Rubber Group:** November 21 – Course: Design, Development and Production of Rubber Compounds; Rubber Chamber Auditorium; December 5 – End of the Year Luncheon; Concamin Ballroom
**MidAtlantic Rubber & Plastics Group:** November 14 – Technical Symposium; Lehigh University – Bethlehem, PA
**New England Rubber & Plastics Group:** November 12 – Fall Technical Meeting or Plant Tour

Rubber Division, ACS team members are always willing to participate in your local rubber group events. Contact Membership Director, Heather Maimone, if you'd like to have one of us in attendance at your event or board meeting. We will do our best to attend in person or remotely!

Full Calendar Of Industry Events

Don't Miss All The Benefits You Could Receive By Joining Our Corporate Membership Program

Become a Rubber Division, ACS Corporate Member and experience the value for your company; save up to 35% on memberships! In addition to the benefits listed beneath each tier available stated below, corporate members will also receive the following benefits:

- Exclusive corporate member registration kiosk at IEC
- Group registration for IEC
- Logo displayed on signage during Rubber Division, ACS conferences
- Logo displayed in the IEC on-site Show Guide and Show Daily publications
- Corporate member lounge with coffee, tea and water for corporate members at IEC
- Opportunity to purchase one corporate table at the IEC welcome reception
- Housing info for events released to you early
- Opportunity for on-site corporate training at your company
- Complimentary hours of library research

Information About Corporate Membership
Library Services

As a member, you get premier access to our library services! Chuck Brady, our Technical Programs Manager, would be happy to help you find what you need.

Click here to see the fee structure for all library services. Contact Chuck Brady at 330-595-5543 or email him for assistance.

Looking for a New Career? The Perfect Candidate?

Don't forget to visit the Careers section of our website to post your resume, view open positions in our industry or post a position for your company. This information will be seen by our members, along with numerous other companies and people in the industry who view our website daily. Contact Gretchen Cermak for more information.

Click here to login to your member account.

Thank you for your continued support of Rubber Division, ACS!

Heather Maimone, MBA
Membership Director
Rubber Division, ACS
330.595.5546