

Tech Center News™

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AD DEADLINE: Thursday 5:00 p.m. for the next edition
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Ex-GM Engineer Is Behr's New VP

TROY - John Tepas has been named vice president of engineering for Behr America, a leading supplier of automotive air-conditioning and engine-cooling systems.

Previously a Behr America director and chief engineer, he also is currently a member of Behr America's Executive Committee.

Prior to joining Behr, Tepas held senior engineering-man-

agement positions at GM and Delphi, including engineering group manager at Delphi Thermal and Interior in Dearborn, Mich., from 2001 until 2005. He also served as manager of Asia Pacific Engineering for Delphi Thermal from 1996 to 2001.

Since 2006, Tepas has had overall responsibility for a variety of engineering activities at Behr in Troy.

Chrysler's Durham Earns Major Engineering Award

AUBURN HILLS - U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology magazine awarded its 2012 Black Engineer of the Year President's Award (BEYA) to Ray Durham, Vehicle Line Executive - SUV Vehicles, Chrysler Group LLC.

Durham and other 2012 BEYA recipients were honored at the 26th BEYA Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Global Competitiveness Conference and Awards Gala on Feb. 18 in Philadelphia, Penn.

The BEYA Conference honors outstanding leaders in the STEM fields and provides excellent opportunities for professional development, networking and recruiting. Chrysler Group has been the

exclusive sponsor of the BEYA Gala for nearly two decades. Durham is the latest in a long list of BEYA-winning engineers at Chrysler Group.

"Ray is in all respects a serious, accomplished engineer with a passionate, human connection to his work, to the products he develops and to young, talented engineers in our company," said Scott G. Kunselman, Senior Vice President, Engineering, Chrysler Group LLC.

"Ray's vision, drive and technical expertise has made him a valuable member of the Chrysler Engineering Team and a respected leader across the Company."

Durham was appointed Vehicle Line Executive - SUV Vehicles in January 2011. In this position, he is responsible for the operational and business strategy for the Jeep Grand Cherokee, Jeep Wrangler and Jeep Liberty products.

He is the central point of contact within a cross-functional development team comprised of engineering, program planning and strategy, product marketing, finance, manufacturing and the product design office. Durham first joined the former Chrysler Corporation as a product engineer in 1988.

"I owe much of who I am to my parents, who taught me to strive to be the best I can be and to never accept mediocrity. And I owe thanks to the strong African-American leaders who met adversity and



Chrysler Group SUV vehicle line executive Ray Durham, right, joined a long list of the Auburn Hills automaker's engineers to receive the Black Engineer of the Year President's Award. With Durham are Georgette Dulwirth, Head of Talent Acquisition and Diversity and Byron Kearney, Head of Scientific Labs and Proving Grounds at Chrysler.

paved the way for my success," Durham said.

"Inspired by these outstanding people and role models, I know that it is my responsibility to lead and inspire the next generation. Our work is never done, and it is, indeed, a labor of love."

The magazine also honored Modern Day Technology Leaders (MDTL) at the conference, "bright, high performance, women and men shaping the future of engineering, science, and technology who demonstrate superior technical skills and leadership capability, generally at professional through senior manager levels."

Recognized as a leader in

promoting diversity throughout its enterprise, Chrysler Group was also named one of the "100 Best Companies for Working Mothers" by Working Mother magazine 12 times, and has been recognized six times by the Human Rights Campaign Foundation as one of the country's leading corporations supporting diversity and inclusion.

Chrysler Group has been named to HispanicBusiness magazine's annual Diversity Elite 60 list for implementing strategies to reach more Hispanic customers and to pursue more business with minority- and Hispanic-owned suppliers.

Various GM Cars Star in Wide Range Of Hollywood Movies Over the Years

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expose our vehicles to new consumers and there will always be a certain 'cool' factor in starring on the big screen."

Most recently, the Chevrolet Camaro sports car took a starring role as the yellow Bumblebee in the Transformers (2007), Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen (2009) and Transformers: Dark of the

Moon (2011). Two Chevrolet Camaro Transformers Special Edition vehicles were offered by Chevrolet that sold about 3,000 units, transferring the big screen appeal to the roadway.

The Camaro wasn't alone among Chevrolets to appear in the Transformer's franchise. The Corvette Stingray Concept and a 1965 Chevrolet Malibu also had cameo roles. All three are now part of GM's Heritage Collection.

"Cars have a lot in common with movies, and there is an often an emotional connection between the audience and the featured car," said Elliot Wilhelm, film curator for the Detroit Institute of Arts and founder of the Detroit Film Theatre.

"You often hear audible groans or see cringes form in the audience when a beautiful car is destroyed in a movie."

Vin Diesel did just that with a Corvette in the 2002 action thriller "xXx" - narrating as 18 cameras filmed the dive from the 730-foot Forrethill Bridge in Auburn, Calif. A stunt double parachutes to safety before Vin's character, Xander Cage, escapes with buddies waiting at the river bed below. Diesel later used a weapons-modified 1967 Pontiac GTO as his ride.

And who could forget director Tim Burton's Batmobile from Batman (1989) and Batman Returns (1992)?

It was a "bat"-customized Chevy Impala? Or the 1959 Cadillac that was the chase of

Pink Cadillac (1989)? Here are others but hardly a complete list, of GM cars that have made an impact in Hollywood movies:

- American Graffiti (1973) - In the coming-of-age movie that helped launch the Hollywood careers of Richard Dreyfuss, Ron Howard and Harrison Ford, a 1955 Chevrolet One-Fifty and 1958 Chevrolet Impala were an ode to the car culture of the 1960s.

- Smokey & the Bandit (1977) - The "Bandit," played by Burt Reynolds, is a maverick racecar driver behind the wheel of a 1977 Pontiac Trans Am. The movie led to two sequels and for Pontiac's 50th anniversary, some 15,567 special Black and Gold edition Trans Ams were created.

- Ghostbusters (1984) - In the 1984 comedy, a 1959 Cadillac Miller-Meteor Ambulance is introduced to audiences worldwide as, "a hunk of junk."

- Saved by Ray Stantz, played by Dan Aykroyd, the car is converted into the ultimate ghost-busting machine - the now-famous Ectomobile.

Gage to Provide Fuels for SAE 'Clean Snowmobile'

FERNDAL - Gage Products Company is celebrating the 10th anniversary of its participation in the annual 2012 Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) Clean Snowmobile Challenge taking place March 5-10 at Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Mich.

A major program sponsor since 2001, Gage will provide specially blended fuels and technical support for the competition. The company is a leading supplier of custom blended formulations of test and reference fuels, calibra-

tion fluids, high performance purge solvent blends, paint line cleaning programs and specialty product solutions for various applications.

Student teams from more than 15 schools in the U.S. and Canada are expected to enter snowmobiles "re-engineered" to improve fuel economy, lower emissions and reduce noise levels without sacrificing performance.

Teams entered in this year's competition will compete in a variety of events which rate emissions, noise, fuel economy, endurance, acceleration, handling, cold start and design factors.

The program - an engineering design competition for college and university SAE student members - is jointly organized and hosted by SAE, the Keweenaw Research Center and the Department of Mechanical Engineering - Engineering Mechanics at Michigan Tech. "The SAE Clean Snowmobile Challenge gives college students an excellent way to apply classroom knowledge to real-life experiences," said Dan Finkiewicz, president of Gage.

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