

Preface

I am pleased to present this special collection of papers from the 35th annual NATAS conference held on the beautiful campus of Michigan State University. Over 220 people gathered from 16 nations to learn from the nearly 200 papers that were presented over three days. The papers and posters covered 15 topical areas of materials science including polymers, metals, ceramics, energetic materials and pharmaceuticals and especially material characterization. The highly valued annual short course, organized by David Jones, was a tremendous success providing an introduction to thermal analysis in addition to instruction on advanced topics including nano-materials, pharmaceuticals, energetic materials and polymers.

The annual banquet was a celebration of achievements and well deserved recognition for both new and old members. The student award winners including Anthony Lang, Huiping Chen, Kai Chen, Matthew Hood, Shyam Prahash, David Stein, and Yan Zhang, represent a very bright future for our society and the thermal analysis community. Recognition for outstanding technical achievement was given to Professor Edward Charsley and Professor Michael Reading. Michael Rich was acknowledged for his outstanding service to our society.

Commendations are given to the entire conference committee, especially Michael Rich, conference chair, and Gordon Meyer, technical program chair, for an overwhelmingly successful event.

The end of August is a nostalgic time for me as my children return to school. After an instructive morning in the nano-materials short course, I donned comfort shoes with the intention of touring the spectacular array of gardens on campus. As I enjoyed the beautiful sunshine and fabulous scenery along the river walk, I happened across a gathering of several hundred students. There was much revelry; many of the experiences I fondly remember from my college days. There were couples walking hand in hand, Frisbees flying, and individuals soaking in the sun while stretched out on blankets, no doubt getting ahead on their physical chemistry reading.

It was a fabulous reminder that no matter how long ago my college days were, there will always be an opportunity to learn and a sense of community within that learning. I am grateful to have that sense of commonality and support from the NATAS society as my work becomes more specialized. I have found that there are fewer people at my workplace that I can call on for opinions on the most recent results or ideas for the next critical set of experiments. I am grateful to have a network of colleagues in the thermal analysis community to call on to discuss these matters. We gather annually at a conference and reconnect. We share technology, ideas, and some really great times. Every August, as the students head back to the classroom, I will count on my friends and colleagues at the NATAS conference to satisfy my desires for good times with good friends founded in the sharing of knowledge.

I hope you enjoy this compilation of selected papers from an outstanding technical conference.

Ms. Maria LaTorre

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Acknowledgements

The Guest Editor is very grateful to the following scientists whose critical reviews have significantly contributed to the quality of the papers in this Special Issue

Arena, G., Catania, Italy
Bóta, A., Budapest, Hungary
Budrugaec, P., Bucharest, Romania
Cardillo, P., San Donato Milanese, Italy
Chrissafis, K., Thessaloniki, Greece
Danch, A., Katowice, Poland
De Klerk, W., Rijswijk, The Netherlands
Drebushchak, V. A., Novosibirsk, Russia
Erickson, K. L., Albuquerque, USA
Ferloni, P., Pavia, Italy
Howell, B. A., Mount Pleasant, USA
Jurkowski, B., Poznan, Poland
Kaljuvee, T., Tallinn, Estonia
Kessler, M. R., Ames, USA
Kök, M. V., Ankara, Turkey
Liska, M., Trenčín, Slovak Republic
Lőrinczy, D., Pécs, Hungary
Macan, J., Zagreb, Croatia
Maciejewski, M., Zurich, Switzerland
Madarász, J., Budapest, Hungary
Myslinsky, P., Koszalin, Poland
Niinistö, L., Espoo, Finland
Nocuń-Wczelik, W., Cracow, Poland
Picker-Freyer, K., Halle, Germany
Popescu, C., Aachen, Germany
Rakesh, L., Mount Pleasant, USA
Rodríguez-Añón, J. A., Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Roos, Y. H., Cork, Ireland
Sarge, S., Braunschweig, Germany
Sashina E. S., Saint-Petersburg, Russia
Shu, C. M., Yunlin, Taiwan
Sulcova, P., Pardubice, Czech Republic
Torra, V., Barcelona, Spain
Uchida, T., Ebina, Japan
Xu, F., Dalian, China
Xu, Q., Nanjing, China
Vinnik, R. M., Moscow, Russia
Wesolowski, M., Gdańsk, Poland
Więcniewski, P., Warsaw, Poland
Zielenkiewicz, W., Warsaw, Poland

DOI: 10.1007/s10973-008-3118-6