

Preface

Sindee Simon

© Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, Hungary 2010

It is my pleasure to present this special collection of papers from the 37th North American Thermal Analysis Society Conference. The meeting, which was held in Lubbock, TX, September 20–23, 2009, included 291 presentations and 222 participants. The scope of the papers accepted for the issue reflects the diversity of topics covered at the meeting. Five parallel sessions ran for a full 3 days, with 18 symposia featured, the largest focusing on Energetic Materials, Kinetics, and Rheology, respectively. More specialized symposia focused on topics ranging from Modeling Thermal Properties to Nanocomposites to Biopolymers and Foods.

A special thank-you must be extended to the meeting Technical Chairs, Prof. Christoph Schick and Dr. Gordon Meyer, as well as to the symposium organizers, for putting together such a diverse and exciting program. And of course, I am especially grateful for the help of Proceedings Editor Karl (Eric) Schoch, NATAS Meeting Councilor Mike Rich, Short Course Organizer David Jones, and NATAS Staff Management Lois Hall. The conference could also not have been accomplished without the help and the support of Bob Fidler, Jeremy D. Clifton, Louis T. Germinario, Maria LaTorre, as well as the 2009 Executive Board members not yet mentioned, Linda Bryson, Tom Ramotowski, Roger Blaine, Andrew McGhie, Bob Howell, and Qweenie Kwok.

The meeting commenced with a reception and a well-attended poster session on Sunday evening. Carolina Ruiz-Orta from Florida A&M University and Florida State University (FAMU-FSU) was the winner of the Best Poster Award, which was a prize supported by Springer. Her poster was coauthored by her supervisor Prof. Rufina Alamo. The Graduate Student Poster Competition was won by Madhavi Vadlamudi, also from Prof. Alamo's group at FAMU-FSU. The Best Undergraduate Poster was presented by Sean

Hannon, supervised by Prof. Brandon Weeks at Texas Tech University.

Monday's program began with a plenary talk by Dr. Vincent Mathot, and was followed by sessions on Energetic Materials, Rheology, and Molecular Modeling, as well as a session on Semicrystalline Polymers in Honor of Dr. Mathot's contributions to the field and a session on Advances in Instrumentation and Methods. Tuesday's plenary lecture was given by the 2009 NATAS Award Winner for Outstanding Achievement, Prof. Rufina Alamo of FAMU-FSU. The breakout sessions that followed continued with symposia on Nanocomposites and Fast Scan DSC, among others. Tuesday's luncheon talk featured the 2009 Perkin-Elmer Student Awardee, Evgeny Zhuraviev from the Universitat Rostock and a student of Prof. Schick's. On Wednesday, Prof. Leslie Allen gave the plenary lecture, kicking off the day-long session on Nanocalorimetry. Other symposia held on Wednesday focused on thermal characterization of Biomaterials and Food, Thermosetting Polymers, and Elastomers, as well as sessions on Combustion and Kinetics.

Evening activities included the well-received reception at CapRock Winery on Monday and Tuesday night's banquet where both Dr. Roger Blaine and Dr. David Jones deservedly received the NATAS Outstanding Service Award. Four students were also recognized for their receipt of travel grants to attend the meeting, including Ekmagage Alemida from Central Michigan University, Octavio Cervantes from the University of California at Davis, Andrew Detwiler from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Mai Ha from the University of Houston.

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