

Guest Editorial

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Andrew Keller was a founding member of the Editorial Board of *Journal of Materials Science* and he played a significant role in the Journal's success over most of its life. This Special Issue of the Journal has been prepared as a tribute to him.

The contributors to the Special Issue are mainly former colleagues, students, collaborators or friends, but some know him only through his publications. Many of our authors have mentioned his influence on their work in their papers—some in the text and others at the end of the paper. His direct contribution to one of the studies was such that he appears as a co-author. He was a great source of inspiration, through his ideas, through his enthusiasm, and through the encouragement and friendship he gave to those who became associated with him. From the correspondence I have had with the authors and with other former colleagues and friends it is evident that he is held in deep affection by all who knew him. A number of his former friends and colleagues have retired and expressed regret that they had no recent studies to submit to the Special Issue and two have health problems that prevented them from contributing. I wish them a speedy recovery.

My own connection with Andrew Keller was quite small. When I first joined the ranks of polymer researchers in 1971 in my third postdoctoral position I needed to educate myself rapidly in my newly chosen field and I quickly discovered the works of Andrew Keller and became a distant disciple. When I first encountered him at conferences and seminars I was immediately impressed by the clarity of his thinking and the expert articulation of his ideas. I met him on a number of occasions over the years and learned at first hand of his warmth as a human being—and as a raconteur, with a quite unique style, of many amusing anecdotes. I therefore regard it as a privilege to have been given the

job of compiling the Special Issue by my colleagues on the current Editorial Board.

As was to be expected, many of the papers are concerned with polymer crystallization and most of these contributions indicate what a strong influence Andrew has in this field. The love of science that so distinguished Andrew's studies is reflected in the papers included here but several of the contributions illustrate also how important technological advances can be made using these scientific foundations. Many of Andrew's students went on to forge careers in other areas and many of his scientific collaborators have additional interests in other fields and it is quite proper that some papers are not concerned with polymer crystallization. It was not Andrew's way to narrow discussions and I am confident that he would approve.

I wish to thank all of the contributors for providing an excellent set of papers that together form a worthy tribute to Andrew. I am especially indebted to our authors for meeting our rather sharp deadlines and for responding so speedily to requests for minor revisions or replacement figures etc. I wish to thank also the referees who provided expert reports with remarkable speed, enabling me to keep on schedule. The production of a Special Issue marks a departure from usual practice at *Journal of Materials Science* and I wish to thank in particular Angela DePina in the publisher's office for putting up with the rather erratic flow of information and copy that came from this rather inexperienced editor as I attempted to juggle with the conflicting needs of good finished copy and keeping to the publisher's production timetable. Finally I would like to thank those authors who missed our submission deadline despite valiant efforts: I expect that we will put their papers into a special supplement in a regular issue of the Journal later on if there are sufficient to warrant it.