

Preface

The 34th Annual Technical Conference of the North American Thermal Analysis Society (NATAS) was held August 6-9, 2006, in Bowling Green, KY. Bowling Green is the home of Western Kentucky University and the laboratory of Professor Wei-Ping Pan. Professor Pan is among the most prominent thermal analysts in the world and his laboratory may be the best equipped. Dr. Pan served as local conference chair for the meeting and was a most gracious host. The venue for the meeting was outstanding. The meeting attracted 233 registrants, from 15 countries, and 16 vendor exhibits. Approximately 200 papers were presented in three parallel sessions. These included special symposia honoring Professor Takeo Ozawa and Professor Bernhard Wunderlich. The contributions of these individuals to the field of thermal analysis have been huge.

As is customary, several major awards were presented at this meeting. The NATAS award for outstanding achievement in thermal analysis sponsored by Mettler Toledo went to Christoph Schick, Professor of Physics at the University of Rostock in Germany. The NATAS student award sponsored by Perkin Elmer was presented to Albert Sargsyan from the Physics Department, University of Rostock. The NATAS outstanding service award went to William Hammett of Sandia National Laboratory. Professor Sergey Vyazovkin, Department of Chemistry, University of Alabama, was elected NATAS Fellow.

The meeting featured two poster sessions, a student session and a general session. Awards for outstanding student poster presentations went to Jameson Mattingly and Yan Zhang of Western Kentucky University and Akshay Kamdar of Case Western University. The best poster award for the general session sponsored by Springer Publishers went to Alan Burnham, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. Several students received NATAS travel awards to help defray the cost of attending the meeting.

Awards were presented at the conference banquet held on Tuesday evening in Lost River Cave in Bowling Green. Lost River Cave was developed as a night club during the 1930-1940's. Two of its features are, of course, natural air conditioning and an ease of compliance with blackout requirements during the war. Today it is a popular tourist attraction and a great place for an evening of good food and entertainment in the presence of thermal scientists from around the world.

The region in which Bowling Green is located is underlain by numerous caves formed by dissolution of natural limestone deposits. The most famous is Mammoth Cave, a world renowned tourist site. A visit to the cave provided an interesting outing for accompanying persons. A minor entrance to the cave is shown on the cover of this volume.

The 34th NATAS Conference was, in all respects, hugely successful. Many outstanding contributions were presented over the three days of the meeting. Several of these have been expanded to full papers and are published, after full peer review, in this volume. These will provide stimulating reading for all interested in thermal analysis and will serve to commemorate a thoroughly satisfying technical conference.

Enjoy.

Bob A. Howell
Guest Editor

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 Chapter

Brown, M. E., Grahamstown, South Africa

Cser, F., Melbourne, Australia

Földvári, M., Budapest, Hungary

Frost, R. L., Brisbane, Australia

Gaal, P. S., Pittsburgh, USA

Garrido-Pedrosa, A. M., Natal, Brazil

Hatakeyama, T., Tokyo, Japan

Judovits, L., Philadelphia, PA, USA

Karger-Kocsis, J., Kaiserslautern, Germany

Koga, N., Hiroshima, Japan

Kristóf, J., Veszprém, Hungary

Kulesza, K., Kedzierzyn-Kozle, Poland

Kumar, A., Kanpur, India

Lalia-kantouri, M., Athens, Greece

Lőrinczy, D., Pécs, Hungary

Maffezzoli, A., Lecce, Italy

Menczel, J., Forth Worth, Texas, USA

Riga, A. T., Cleveland, Ohio, USA

Rodríguez-Anón, J. A., Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Roduit, B., Siders, Switzerland

Sulcová, P., Pardubice, Czech Republic

Tanaka, H., Hiroshima, Japan

Van Ekeren, P. J., Rijswijk, The Netherlands

DOI: 10.1007/s10973-006-3082-y