
Congratulations

PROFESSOR BERNHARD WUNDERLICH IS 75!

We are really fortunate: some of us (and that number is not small, it is 114!) may proudly say that we are Prof. Wunderlich's former students! So this year at the NATAS meeting, as customary, we decided to celebrate Prof. Wunderlich's 75th birthday. In addition to the birthday dinner, we also organized an honorary session for him: 'Semicrystalline Polymers: Two Phases or Three?' At the beginning of the session, Joe Menczel and Rick Seyler, the organizers and the co-chairs of the session presented a special NATAS award to Prof. Wunderlich for his life-long accomplishments. After the introduction by Rick Seyler and a seminar by Joe Menczel on the discovery of the rigid amorphous phase, Prof. Wunderlich gave a one hour seminar summarizing his achievements during his long career in thermal analysis. This was followed by six other seminars on the rigid amorphous phase by Peggy Cebe, G. Collins, M. Pyda, R. Androsch and C. Schick.

For those few who don't know it yet, Professor Wunderlich was born in Brandenburg an der Havel, Germany on May 28, 1931. He started his university studies at the famous Humboldt University in Berlin in 1949, and then, after arriving to the free world, he continued his studies at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, in then-West Germany. That was the time he married his wife, Heidi, and they arrived together to the U.S. when emigrating.

Prof. Wunderlich's Ph.D. thesis on was done on 'Thermodynamics of the Copolymer System Poly(ethylene Terephthalate-Sebacate)' under the leadership of the late Prof. M. Dole at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL. This was the time when Prof. Wunderlich started his first heat capacity measurements with an adiabatic calorimeter. Later he became a professor at Cornell University, and in 1963 he took a position at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI) where he was working until 1988. The famous ATHAS (Advanced Thermal Analysis System) Laboratory was founded in 1980 at RPI. The next step in his career was the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and simultaneously the Oak Ridge National Laboratory until his retirement in 2001. Several more years he was still supervising experimental work, but starting from 2005, he fully devotes his energy to systematizing the huge amount of experimental data he collected in his career. Professor Wunderlich has over 575 publications, and three books, among them the most valuable 'Macromolecular Physics'. He is an author of several book chapters and several computer courses in thermal analysis. In his research, he pioneered in such important areas as the theory of DSC, measurements and calculations of heat capacity of macromolecules, classification schemes of matter, including the introduction of the condis crystals, establishing Wunderlich's rule regarding the heat capacity change at the glass transition, working on the hysteresis effect at the glass transition and the rigid amorphous phase. He was the first to prepare extended chain polyethylene crystals and study their melting behavior. He was also working with macromolecular nucleation, and recrystallization during melting of semicrystalline polymers. Finally, he played the most important role in developing the theory of modulated temperature DSC (MTDSC). Professor Wunderlich has guided 57 postdoctoral research associates, 39 Ph.D. students and 18 master degree students from 15 countries.

We warmly congratulate Professor Wunderlich, and hope he will continue to teach us well to thermal analysis.

Joe Menczel and Rick Seyler

Co-Chairs of the special Rigid Amorphous Session at the 34th Annual NATAS Meeting

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