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## **A Word from the Editor**

Louis H. Sharpe Editor in Chief

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## I A Word from the Editor

We congratulate Professor Hugh Brown on his receipt of the Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science, sponsored by 3M, which was given during the Society's 29th Annual Meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, USA, 19–22 February 2006.

It is with great pleasure that we present, in this issue, part 1 of a collection of papers honoring him on his receipt of the award.

Here follows an appreciation of Professor Brown's work by Professor Kenneth R. Shull.

Louis H. Sharpe  
Editor in Chief

### THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2006 ADHESION SOCIETY AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN ADHESION SCIENCE, SPONSORED BY 3M

Professor Hugh R. Brown  
University of Wollongong  
Faculty of Engineering  
Wollongong, NSW 2522, Australia

“For his exceptionally creative and diverse contributions to the understanding of the mechanisms of adhesion between polymers, including the effect of block copolymers on the fracture strength of polymer interfaces.”

Hugh Brown has a long history of accomplishments in the general area of adhesion and fracture, beginning with his early work on craze microstructure. He was instrumental in introducing a variety of experimental techniques that have had a substantial impact on the fields of adhesion science and polymer physics. Examples include his use of transmission electron microscopy and x-ray scattering to study craze microstructure and his pioneering development of double-cantilever-beam experiments to study interfacial fracture in glassy polymer systems.

Perhaps Hugh's greatest impact on the adhesion science community originates from his work on the effect of diblock copolymers on the

adhesion between immiscible, glassy polymers. The experimental test that Hugh developed has been used by several groups to obtain quantitative information on the molecular parameters that determine the interfacial fracture strength in these systems. More important, Hugh was able to use these results to develop a molecular model for the fracture toughness for a wide variety of glassy polymer materials. This model, published in *Macromolecules* in 1991, has had a great influence on both experimentalists and theorists studying fracture processes in glassy polymers.

Hugh has also contributed to a variety of problems in the “soft adhesives” area, including the role of frictional forces and chain pullout effects in the adhesion of elastomers. Since moving to Australia, he has continued to work in a variety of problems related to particle adhesion, coating adhesion, and surface modification. His creativity and scientific depth are intrinsically motivational and have influenced the scientific directions of many of us who are working in the field of adhesion science. Many of the contributions in this issue, and in issues to appear later, have been directly or indirectly motivated by Hugh’s work, for which he was awarded the 2006 Adhesion Society Award for Excellence in Adhesion Science during the society’s annual meeting in Jacksonville, Florida, 19–22 February 2006.

Kenneth R. Shull  
Northwestern University  
Evanston, Illinois, USA