

1994 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference highlights technology basics

RICHARD W. HALLE

Senior Staff Scientist, Exxon Chemical Company

TAPPI's Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division held its 1994 annual technical conference in Nashville, TN, over the week of Aug. 28–Sept. 1. There were 376 conference attendees who took in over 70 papers and several panel discussions. As always, the PLC Conference was successful, both technically and monetarily. The audience was diverse, including attendees from 31 states and 14 countries coming from as far away as Brazil, Israel, and New Zealand. John Benham of Quantum oversaw the event as conference chairman and Rick Rolando of 3M was the technical program chairman.

This year's conference emphasized technology basics, and the participants were rewarded with excellent sessions focusing on the fundamental aspects of film extrusion, extrusion coating, and packaging technologies. The Extrusion Coating Committee sponsored a "Best of the Basics in Extrusion Coating" session, developed by Bruce Foster, which played to a standing-room-only audience. The session explored the key fundamentals of the extrusion coating of polyolefins and polyesters. Both PLC oldtimers and newcomers were treated to some excellent and well-presented information.

The Film Extrusion Committee's Rick Knittel developed a session on "Film Extrusion Equipment," which included papers on designing and specifying equipment covering areas such as coextrusion dies, drive selection for extruders, barrier screws, and scale-up factors in blown film. Again, there was sound basic information for the many newcomers attending the conference and many new insights into the leading edge of equipment design for our longtime members. The session was just one example of the wealth of knowledge in key technology areas spread among PLC Division members.

A session entitled "Surface Modification and Lamination," sponsored by the Flexible Packaging Committee and chaired by Alan Davis, next year's PLC Conference Technical Chairman, emphasized the importance of corona treatment in the packaging and film industries. Session papers looked at surface preparation of films and how this sometimes-neglected process step is crucial to a successful packaging operation.

Andreas Ahlbrandt (left) travelled from Lauterbach, Germany, to present the PLC Division Leadership and Service Award, which bears his name, to David A. Markgraf of Enercon Industries.



Al Soutar of DuPont received the Samuel A. Zweig Prize.



Conference Report

Marianne T. Miller is the 1994 recipient of the Ralph A. Klucken Scholarship.



Jeffrey J. Siegel of MICA Corp. received the Best Session Award.



Keynote Speaker **Michael J. Baldwin** of Quantum Chemical focused on packaging and environmental responsibility.



Tim Pope (left) accepted the Best Paper Award of the 1993 PLC Conference from Bob Knstrey on behalf of himself and coauthor Gina Young.



Other highlights at this year's PLC Conference included a session emphasizing important environmental issues in extrusion coating and two "best papers" sessions, one with papers from the PLC Hot Melt Symposium and the other containing six papers selected from this past May's SPE-ANTEC Conference. The Conference proceedings contain copies of all these papers and are available from TAPPI PRESS.

Awards

The PLC Conference Award lunch was well attended, as always. Dave Markgraf of Enercon was awarded the Andreas G. Ahlbrandt Prize, the PLC Division's Leadership and Service Award. It was presented by Andreas Ahlbrandt himself, who came all the way from Germany. Dave has been very active in the PLC Division since 1980, serving in many roles including division chairman in 1990 and 1991. He is a candidate for the TAPPI Board of Directors and will provide an active voice for the PLC when elected.

Al Soutar of DuPont was awarded the Samuel Zweig Prize, the Division's Technical Award. Al has also been a member of the PLC Division since 1980 and has served on many technical committees, presented papers, and always enlightened our sessions with his insightful questions for our speakers. For the first time, the PLC's Ralph A. Klucken Scholarship Award was presented to a student majoring in polymer science. Marianne T. Miller of the University of Wisconsin was the scholarship recipient for 1994.

Next time

All in all, the 1994 PLC Conference was very successful and provided numerous opportunities for interaction and net-

Outgoing Division Chairman **Russell H. Cramm** (left) is thanked by TAPPI President's Representative **Bob Kinstrey**.



work building, definite benefits of every PLC Conference. Ken Foley, our conference chairman next year, and Al Davis, next year's technical program chairman, are already well into planning the 1995 PLC Conference, which will be held at the Chicago Marriott on Aug. 28-31. The CMM show will be going on the same week at McCormick Place in Chicago, providing an extra incentive to attend next year's TAPPI PLC Conference. **■**