

PACKAGING AND EXTRUSION TECHNOLOGIES SHARE CONFERENCE SPOTLIGHT

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LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES IN PACKAGING TECHNOLOGY, ESPECIALLY IN THE FIELD OF EXTRUSION, ABOUNDED AT THE 1996 TAPPI POLYMERS, LAMINATIONS AND COATINGS DIVISION CONFERENCE.

FOR A FEW DAYS IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 1996, BOSTON was not only the home of the bean and cod but also of TAPPI's 1996 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division's annual conference. TAPPI and the Institute of Packaging Professionals (IoPP) hosted the meeting at the Boston Marriott Copley Place Hotel in the heart of Back Bay adjoining the theater district and the Hynes Convention Center area. The conference theme, "Thinking outside the box," alluded to the enlarged scope of the conference and expanded the horizons of the participants.

Besides offering the traditional gamut of technical sessions, panel discussions, committee meetings, and networking opportunities, the conference organizers introduced a new feature—a Technology Showcase and Reception. This event, featuring presentations by companies on current products and technologies, was a highly applauded feature of the conference. It promises to become a tradition.

John V. Benham of Quantum Chemical Corp. officiated as conference chairman, while David J. Bentley Jr. of RBS Technologies and Alan M. Davis of Quantum Performance Films, Inc., served as technical program co-chairmen. Approximately 400 attendees participated in the four-day conference from Sept. 9–12.

SPECIAL HONORS

The Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Awards Luncheon featured Dale R. Dill, incoming president of TAPPI, as the keynote speaker. Dill addressed the conference attendees and honored industry professionals with awards.



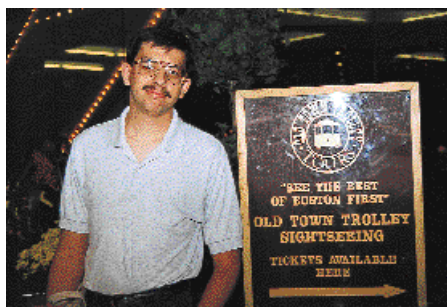
Newcomer Jacqueline Morris, technical sales representative, Ciba Geigy Corp., prepares a plate before entering the newcomers reception.

Thomas I. Butler, developmental associate for Dow Chemical Co. in Freeport, TX, received the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Technical Award and Sam Zweig Prize in recognition of his technical contributions in film extrusion. Morton International endowed the Sam Zweig Prize.

Gary D. Jerdee, technical service engineer for Chevron Chemical Co. in Orange, TX, received the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Leadership and Service Award and Andreas Ahlbrandt Prize for his years of ser-



Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Technical Award and Sam Zweig Prize winner Thomas I. Butler of Dow Chemical Co.



Daniel Mowery received the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Scholarship Award.



David Markgraf (left) of Enercon Industries Corp. congratulates Gary Jerdee of Chevron Chemical, the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Leadership and Service Award and Andreas Ahlbrandt Prize Honoree.

vice to the Division. Enercon Industries Corp. endowed the Andreas Ahlbrandt Prize.

The Ralph A. Klucken Scholarship Award went to Daniel M. Mowery, a senior at the University of Cincinnati majoring in materials engineering, in recognition of his outstanding academic accomplishment in a field of study related to the Division. The October 1996 issue of *TAPPI JOURNAL* has autobiographical information on each of these three award winners.

The following received Certificates of Appreciation for service to the Division: Richard W. Halle for his role as Division chairman for the 1994-1996 term; Gary D. Jerdee of Chevron Chemical Co., outgoing chairman of the Extrusion Coating Committee; George E. Ealer of Union Carbide Corp., outgoing chairman of the Film Extrusion Committee; Mike Tokarski of Combibloc Inc., outgoing chairman of the High Barrier Packaging Committee; Paul A. Marshall of Pioneer Plastics Corp., outgoing chairman of the Plastic Laminates Committee; and Jean M. Tancrede of Exxon Chemical Co., outgoing chairman of the Hot Melt Committee.

Additional awards presented at the luncheon were Best Session Award for the 1995 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Conference to Lisa K. Johnson of Quantum Chemical Corp. for her session, "Resins for extrusion coating." Jeffrey J. Wooster and Brian E. Simmons of Dow Chemical Co. won the Best Paper Award for the 1995 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Conference for their paper, "Optimizing COE, seal performance, and properties of polyolefin plastomers."

Erkki Laiho of Borealis Polymers received a special Certificate of Appreciation for chairing the highly acclaimed Scandinavian Film Extrusion and Extrusion Coating Seminar in Tampere, Finland, on June 4-6, 1996. David E. Fish of Weyerhaeuser received a special Certificate of Appreciation for chairing the Extrusion Coating

Short Course for Engineers at Hilton Head Island, SC, on April 22-24, 1996.

PACKAGING PROGRAM

A panel discussion, "Vision of flexible packaging in the 21st Century," drew a large audience that stayed for longer than the scheduled duration. The presentations and question-and-answer session served as the opening session, provided the theme for the conference, and gave the audience high expectations for the remaining sessions. Bob Esse of ETI, Jim Scott of Nabisco, and Tom Dunn of Printpack covered food packaging, digital printing, and the lay of the land beyond the year 2000 following the current rage of mergers and acquisitions, respectively. Esse chaired the panel and stimulated audience participation.

Speakers on the packaging tract did a commendable job in offering current and useful information to the audience. There were two sessions entitled "High Barrier Packaging" and two sessions entitled "Advances in Packaging." Liquid crystal polymers were the subject of an address by R. Lusignea of Superex Polymer, Inc. T. Mueller discussed practical packaging applications for new barrier films. Representing MOCON, B. Demorest talked about the measurement of water vapor transmission rates. A paper by J. Krohn and D. Jordy of Lyondell Petrochemical Co. compared vapor permeation rates of polyethylene blown films.

The two sessions on "Advances in Packaging" featured presentations by B. Blakistone on heat seal integrity, D. Guazzo on leak testing of pharmaceutical packages, J. Calvert on modified atmosphere packaging of beef, and D. Zhang on an extrudable lidding sealant resin. B. Glasbrenner spoke on solventless laminating adhesives, and H. Yeh discussed the evaluation of paper-to-foil laminations for aseptic food packages. Particularly popular

CONFERENCE REPORT

Dave Bentley chaired the "Advances in Packaging" sessions of the packaging tract during the conference.



papers were those of G. Strupinsky on innovative applications of plastics in flexible packaging and C. Sand on edible barriers.

EXTRUSION TECHNOLOGIES

The remaining ten sessions during the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Conference covered various aspects of extrusion coating, film extrusion, and coextrusion. Metallocene resins and their application in flexible packaging were highlights of numerous papers. B. Foster's presentation, "What happens when you drool?" was not only a captivating and innovative title but also typical of the offerings on optimization of resin performance and extruder conditions.

Papers in the session entitled "Web Handling" included a discussion of static electricity by J. Giuliano, a presentation on the mechanics of wrinkling by D. Roisum, an analysis of the bending of film winding rolls by N. Rao and T. Ruegg, information on web tension control by M. Souza, and the design of a corona treater station for blown film by D. Markgraf.

"The influence of using fluoropolymer processing additives to improve the extrusion characteristics of LDPE/LLDPE resin blends" by J. Horns evaluated material output, melt temperature, and die pressure. The fluoropolymer processing additive improved the extru-



Many conference attendees signed a greeting card for Alan M. Davis of Quantum Performance Films, who could not attend the conference.

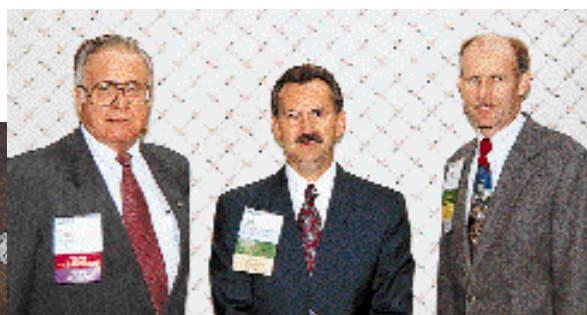
sion of resin blends by reducing resistance to flow and reducing die pressure. His study offered potential changes processors can make to melt temperature, material output, and die geometry.

INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

As TAPPI Board of Directors' representative and keynote speaker at the conference award ceremony, Incoming President Dale R. Dill called the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division a TAPPI stronghold with dedicated members. "Plan a conference anywhere and they will come," Dill noted. "The Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division," Dill said, "is the most active internationally of all TAPPI's thirteen divisions." He continued that the Division does not have to tiptoe diplomatically through



TAPPI education administrator Carole Teja and author David Roisum of Finishing Technologies, Inc. chatted about future short course plans.



(From left to right) Incoming TAPPI President Dale R. Dill; incoming Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Chairman John Benham; and current Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division chairman Rick Halle

Laurie Beth Tyldesly of Black Clawson, Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division publicity chairperson, organized the popular Technology Showcase event.

another association's territory because there is no competition. The Division therefore continues to canvass Europe aggressively as a location for technology information and transfer.

The Division has made great strides internationally. At the conference in Boston, 11% of the attendees were from outside the United States. The majority were Canadians. This year, the International Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Committee launched two seminars—the 1996 Scandinavian Extrusion Coating and Cast Film Symposium in Tampere, Finland, and the United Kingdom Extrusion Coating, Cast and Blown Film Seminar in Birmingham, England. Dragan Djordjevic and Erkki Laiho directed the Nordic program, while Philip Sherman developed the UK program. Future symposia are slated for Bombay and New Delhi, India, and Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1997.

TAPPI recently assigned Education Administrator Carole Teja to assist the Division in short course development. The next U. S. course will be Film Extrusion and Co-Extrusion to be held in Atlanta, GA, in February 1997.

David Markgraf chairs the Ad Hoc International Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Committee. He is a candidate for election to the TAPPI Board of Directors who deserves the support of Division members.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Future events for the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division include the following:

- TAPPI Leadership Summit, Feb. 22–26, 1997, Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, GA
- Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Midyear Meeting, Feb. 26–27, 1997, Atlanta, GA
- TAPPI Hot Melt Symposium, June 15–18, 1997, Hyatt Regency, Hilton Head Island, SC
- 1997 TAPPI Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division Conference, Aug. 24–28, Sheraton Centre, Toronto Hotel, Toronto, ON, Canada. **TJ**

Bentley is vice president, RBS Technologies Inc., and Pauksta is TAPPI JOURNAL news coordinator.

The 1996 PLC Conference Proceedings are available through TAPPI PRESS. The two-volume set contains 65 papers in 623 pages. The order code for the 8-1/2-in. by 11-in. soft-cover book is 01 05 0796. List price is US\$ 125, but cost to TAPPI members is US\$ 80.

UNDERSTANDING THE COMPETITION: A VIEW FROM THE FRINGE

John V. Benham, the new chairman of the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division, is research manager/polyolefins technical service at Quantum, USI Division, in Cincinnati, OH. During the Division Conference on Sept. 10, Benham was celebrating his 28th anniversary with Quantum and awaiting the birth of his first grandchild. On Sept. 11, he accepted the gavel from his predecessor, Rick Halle of Exxon, and began his term as chairman of the Division.

As conference chairman of the 1996 event, he orchestrated the symphony of events that made a successful conference. During the syncopated beats of the conference, Benham found a moment to share his thoughts about the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division's role in the grand scheme of TAPPI.

"It's tough being on the fringe. That is how the pulp and paper focused divisions see our group. We are aware of being outsiders." Challenges and threats to the pulp and paper markets of those divisions may soon place the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division at center stage. The Division can play the starring role in understanding paper substitutes and their part in the industry.

In his capacity as Division chairman, Benham plans to take a proactive stance in convincing the other divisions that a synergy exists between his Division and the other twelve of TAPPI. "There are various niches," he said, "where we interface with other divisions. They are not aware of it yet, however. One example is a substrate for papermakers." Paper substrates involving plastics offer cost reduction, improved product, and increased moisture barrier. The Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division can help the pulp and paper focused divisions understand the technology that may be threatening some of their markets and give them a better sense of what they are facing. Under the philosophy of "know thy enemy," it is possible to develop strategies for counteraction.

Additionally, Benham sees integration with the rest of TAPPI as an opportunity to broaden the focus of the Association and to look beyond paper. He hopes his proactive stance will help the Association see the value of the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division becoming a true member of the team.

Benham sees many similarities between TAPPI divisions and plans to herald a theme of cooperation and interaction. Since paper substitutes are definitely here to stay, all the TAPPI divisions with paper interests should take advantage of an opportunity to be more aware of the competition. Benham wants them to make the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division their ally.

Does anyone want to join Benham's group in a joint technical conference?