

# INNOVATIONS MARK 1999 POLYMERS, LAMINATIONS AND COATINGS CONFERENCE

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*COMBINING INNOVATIVE OFFERINGS WITH ITS USUAL PROGRAM, TAPPI'S POLYMERS, LAMINATIONS AND COATINGS DIVISION PROVIDED MANY POPULAR EVENTS.*

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**T**HE 457 REGISTRANTS WHO ATTENDED THE TAPPI 1999 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference at the Omni Hotel at CNN Center in Atlanta, GA, August 22–26, 1999, responded enthusiastically from the opening keynote session to the closing Meet the Experts Lunch. In between these events, the conference offered 20 technical sessions featuring panel discussions and the presentation of more than 85 scientific papers. The audience was comprised of people from Australia, Austria, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Kuwait, Mexico, the Netherlands, Thailand, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Venezuela, attesting to the international appeal of the program.

Before the formal opening of the conference on Monday, attendees had the opportunity on Sunday to participate in one of two self-improvement workshops: "Sharpening Your Presentation Skills" by Cheryl Reimold of PERC Communications or "Planning and Moderating a Successful Panel Discussion" by Sally Love of Paragon Management Consulting. Both workshops offered attendees skills for business and personal life.

## KEYNOTE SESSION

The conference opened with a welcome by Jeffrey J. Siegel of Mica Corporation. Siegel paid tribute to the work of Dragan Djordjevic, who died in June 1999. Siegel noted, "His spirit is alive in this room today." Hassan H. Helmy of Egan Davis Standard announced the creation of an award by his company in memory of Djordjevic for the best technical paper in extrusion presented at future conferences.

The opening presentation by Clifford Maxwell of Mica Corporation was "Historical Review of PLC

Innovations." Maxwell highlighted the many inventions and industry advances attributed to members of the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division. He also paid tribute to the winners of the division awards from previous years for their contributions.

The second address in the keynote session was by Richard W. Somerville of E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. on "Global Demands and Trends in Packaging." He noted that in the flexible packaging industry, many trends are the result of demands by consumers. Other important groups contributing to new trends are retailers, governmental agencies, environmental groups, and food packagers. Some common demands today are convenience, no waste of the packaged item, source reduction of packaging, extended shelf life, economy, and tamper evidence. Making this even more complex is the global nature of flexible packaging today.

John J. McDevitt, corporate economist for 3M Company, gave the keynote address on "20/20 Vision: Looking Back and Toward the Future." He began by sharing the good news of the total global economic recovery as 2000 approaches. "What a beautiful present to the world to have recovery again in Europe, in Asia, and, yes, even in Latin America," he said. Using charts, McDevitt explored in layperson's terms the implications of the industrial production index forecast for 1999 and 2000, falling inflation as a growth driver, capacity utilization rates in manufacturing, and specific economic projections for printing, publishing, paper, chemicals, rubber, and plastic.

## AWARDS

The closing portion of the keynote session featured the presentation of Polymers, Laminations and Coatings



1. Sally Love (left) and Cheryl Reimold presented self-improvement workshops on "Planning and moderating a successful panel discussion" and "Sharpening your presentation skills," respectively.



2. Laurie Beth Tyldesley, shown here moderating the New Technology Showcase, is the newly appointed secretary for the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division.

Division awards. Ashok Adur of International Paper received the Division Leadership and Service Award and the accompanying Andreas Ahlbrandt Prize endowed by Enercon Industries, Inc. A member of TAPPI for almost 20 years, Adur co-founded and is still an active member of the division's High Barrier Packaging Committee. The recipient of the Division Technical Award and accom-

panying Sam Zweig Prize endowed by Morton International was George O. Schroeder of George O. Schroeder Associates. He has been involved in the fields of paperboard and composite, flexible, and barrier packaging, and holds about 20 U.S. patents in these areas.

Christopher M. Carter, a junior at the University of Southern Mississippi who is pursuing a bachelor's degree in polymer science, received the Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Division's Ralph A. Klucken Scholarship. Outgoing division and committee officers who received recognition for their service were Jeffrey J. Siegel of Mica Corp., division chairperson; Louis W. Piffer of Egan Davis Standard, International Planning Committee chairperson; Bruce W. Foster of Eastman Chemical Co., Extrusion Coating Committee chairperson; Richard M. Kucejko of Cadillac Products, Inc., Film Extrusion Committee chairperson; Richard W. Halle, Exxon Chemical Co., Flexible Packaging Committee chairperson; and Loyce A. Ardemagni of Eastman Chemical Co., Hot Melt Committee chairperson.

M. N. G. Storm van Leeuwen and G. Wullms of DSM Research received the 1998 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference Best Paper Award for their paper "Volatiles in extrusion coating LDPE that determine organoleptic properties." Scott Melrose of Dyneon LLC received the 1998 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference Best Session Award for his sessions "Additives Training Camp" and "Your Quest for the Right Additive." Melrose also received the Al Davis Session Developer Award for his work in Sessions 2, 6, and 18 at this conference.

### NETWORKING

Numerous opportunities existed at the conference for attendees to network with one another. Immediately following the keynote session, a lunch for 115 first-time registrants at the conference gave them an opportunity to learn about the meeting, acclimate themselves to the conference, and receive information on TAPPI and this division and its committees.

Another opportunity for networking was an evening reception on Wednesday. For the conference closing on Thursday afternoon, attendees ate box lunches around tables staffed by experts from each of the technical sessions. Here attendees were able to speak one-on-one with presenters at the conference and obtain answers to specific questions in an informal atmosphere.

The conference this year again included a New Technology Showcase as the final session on Monday afternoon. Some 13 companies gave five-minute commercial presentations on new products and developments. Following the presentations, the audience adjourned to a room where there were tabletop exhibits from approximately 20 companies. Over drinks and hors d'oeuvres, attendees could ask questions or request information about specific offerings.

## TECHNICAL PROGRAM

The conference chair for the technical program was John Perdikoulis of Compuplast Canada, Inc. The theme for the event was "Converting Packaging into Success." Bruce Foster of Eastman Chemical Co. assembled a technical program that covered such areas as additives, extrusion coating primers, high barrier materials, printing and treating, basic concepts of film extrusion, polypropylene film, flexible packaging, and coextrusion.

Virginia P. Cushing and Fred M. Singer of Mica Corp. gave a presentation on "Paper, film, and foil primers for extrusion coating." They discussed types of primers, adhesion variables, tests for troubleshooting, and prediction of primer performance in a converted structure. In "Extrusion coating specialty resins," Scott B. Marks of E. I. DuPont de Nemours & Co. talked about selecting an extrusion coating resin from the various choices available. Prakash Patel and Nilesh Savargaonkar of Ampacet Corp. spoke about slip behavior, polymer density, and branching in their paper on "COF and blocking in mLLDPE film: 'Why don't my recipes work?'"

In her paper on "An alternative to mPE's and ULDPE's for packaging applications," Amy B. Hitchcock of Eastman Chemical Co. discussed the properties of two new families of polymers that provide alternatives to conventional metallocene and ultra low density polyethylenes. The polymers have low heat seal initiation temperatures, broad hot tack ranges, and the toughness for the demands of packaging applications today. Richard J. Wimberger of C. A. Litzler Co., Inc., in his paper "Convection air dryer sizing and selection of nozzle design/spacing," told his audience how to increase the value of a finished product by understanding how nozzle spacing, nozzle design, air velocity, air solvent concentration, and heat and mass transfer influence dryer length, efficiency, and quality of a coated web.

The complete texts for all the technical presentations at the TAPPI 1999 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference are available in two volumes from TAPPI PRESS, 15 Technology Parkway S., Norcross, GA 30092. To purchase the TAPPI 1999 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference Proceedings, call the TAPPI toll-free service line at +1 800 322-8686 in the United States or +1 800 446-9431 in Canada.

## NEXT CONFERENCE

The next TAPPI Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference will take place August 27-31, 2000, at the Westin Hotel in Chicago, IL.



3. Ashok Adur (left) receives the Division Leadership and Service Award and accompanying Andreas Ahlbrandt Prize endowed by Enercon Industries, Inc., from David Markgraf.

Anyone wishing to present a paper at this meeting should contact Scott Melrose, the Technical Program Chairman, at +1 800 917-2733, by fax at +1 708 429-7559, or e-mail at [sjmelrose@mmm.com](mailto:sjmelrose@mmm.com). Additional information will be available for the TAPPI 2000 Polymers, Laminations and Coatings Conference from the toll-free service line or the TAPPI web page at <http://www.tappi.org>.

Timothy M. Kneale of AET Films won the Best Paper and Best Session incentive award for a free registration and airfare to the conference in 2000. TJ

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4. The "Basic blown film extrusion troubleshooting: Ask an expert" panel consisted of (left to right) Michael D. Crist of BASF Corp., Dean L. Ward of Brampton Engineering, Inc., Eric J. Reger of Ampacet Corp., Jeffrey J. Wooster of Dow Chemical USA, and Scott J. Melrose of Dyneon LLC (moderator).