

International Forum on Polymers 1999: POLYCHAR-7

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In this volume we present papers from the 7th International Conference on Polymer Characterization (POLYCHAR-7) held at the University of North Texas (UNT) in Denton on January 5–8, 1999. The Conference was preceded by a Short Course on Polymer Characterization on Monday January 4, 1999. POLYCHAR-8 is held at UNT on January 11–14, 2000, with the Short Course on Monday, January 10.

Papers from the POLYCHAR Conferences used to be published in *Polymer Engineering & Science*^{1–6)}, usually taking two or three issues. Our cooperation with the past and present Editors of that journal, respectively the late Roger S. Porter and Robert A. Weiss, has always been harmonious *par excellence*. Publication in *Macromolecular Symposia* has the advantage of all the papers in a single volume. We appreciate now the hospitality of Hartwig Höcker and the kind cooperation with Ingrid Meisel and her colleagues who are the Editors of *Macromolecular Symposia*.

Information about our Conferences can be found in various journals^{1–8)}. For those new to POLYCHAR, we would like to list certain features characteristic of our Conferences – and not found collectively in other conferences on Polymer Science and Engineering (PSE):

1. We put together experimentalists, those doing computer simulations, and theorists in one lecture hall at a time. The advantages of doing so have been already discussed^{3, 4)}.
2. We are by far the most worldwide conference on PSE. The Scientific Committee of POLYCHAR has representatives from 48 countries. At a single Conference we typically have 40 countries represented. We have also had, at various times, participants from countries which are not yet represented on the Scientific Committee: Algeria, Iran, Fiji Islands, Morocco, Nigeria, Slovenia and Switzerland. It is for this reason that Roger Porter coined for our Conferences this other name: International Forum on Polymers.

3. Those speaking at the Conference have the option – but not the obligation – of submitting manuscripts for volumes such as this one. Each manuscript is reviewed by two or three referees. Thus, the authors have the multiple benefits of live discussion during the Conference, written inputs from the referees, and also publication in a renowned archive journal.
4. As also argued before^{3,4)}, we attach much weight to the otherwise well-known fact that students and young people represent the future of any discipline. Therefore, students participate in our Conferences below actual costs. Moreover, each time the POLYCHAR Prize Committee awards several Prizes and Diplomas of Distinction. Carl Klason from the Department of Polymeric Materials of the Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg used to be the Chair of the Prize Committee. Since his passing away the First Student Prize has been called the Carl Klason Prize. At POLYCHAR-7 the following prizes and awards were distributed at the closing ceremony:

Two *ex-aequo* Karl Klason Prizes for the Best Student Presentation:

- Methporn Mareanukroh (University of Akron) for her poster: *“Fine Scale Characterization of Rubber Modulus with the Atomic Force Microscope”*; advisor: Ron K. Eby
- Chunye Xu (Nara Women’s University) for her poster: *“Morphology and Mechanical Properties of Carbon Fibers”*; advisor: Masaru Matsuo

The Third Prize for a Student Presentation:

- Prakaipetch Panchaipetch (University of North Texas, Denton) for her two posters: *“Commercial Epoxy + Monomer Liquid Crystal Epoxy Blends: Compatibility and Curing Kinetics”*; and *“Kinetics of Epoxy Curing in Composites Containing Glass Fibers or Glass Fibers Comingled with Polypropylene”*; advisors: Witold Brostow and Nandika Anne D’Souza

Diplomas of Distinction:

- Michael Ishaque (University of Marburg) for his oral presentation: *“Structure and Properties of Poly(p-xylylene) Prepared by Chemical Vapor Deposition”*; advisor: Andreas Greiner
- Philippe Lodefier (Catholic University of Louvain) for his oral presentation: *“TREF Fractionation and its Numerical Simulation for Poly(ethylene terephthalate-co-isophthalate)”*; advisor: Roger Legras
- Georgia Vieira de Vasconcelos Vilaca Pinto (Federal University of Pernambuco) for her poster: *“Effects of Corona Treatment and of 1,4-cyclohexanedimethanol on the Surface Characteristics of Poly(ethylene terephthalate) Films”*; advisor: Yeda Medeiros Bastos de Almeida
- Sirina Putthanarat (University of Akron) for her oral presentation: *“The Nano-fibrillar Structure of Silk Fibers”*; advisor: Ron K. Eby

The First Prize for a Young Polymer Investigator (not older than 32 at the time of Prize reception):

- Dirk W. Schubert (GKKS Research, Geesthacht) for his three posters, one oral, as well as one tutorial (Short Course) presentation, dealing with polymer compatibility, interaction parameters, diblock copolymers in thin films, and spin coating as a method of molecular mass determination

The Second Prize for a Young Polymer Investigator:

- Mikael S. Hedenqvist (The Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm) for his oral presentation: "*Molecular Dynamics Simulation of Amorphous Poly(ethylene terephthalate)*"

References

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