



# **PPS Newsletter**

[www.tpps.org](http://www.tpps.org)

June 2024

Information to Polymer Processing Society Members

## **The PPS-39 International Conference, May 19-23, 2024, a grand success in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia**

The PPS-39 International Conference was held in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, on May 19-23, 2024 (website <https://pps39.uniandes.edu.co/>). The Conference was organized by Prof. Jorge Medina and his team of the Universidad de los Andes (Mechanical Engineering), who offered a unique combination of excellent technical sessions and superb food. The venue was the charming Hilton Hotel.

There were 432 attendees (24 students). There were organized Symposia (16 general + 4 special), 8 Plenary and 60 Keynote lectures. There were 270 orals and 66 posters, coming from 42 countries. Europe had the biggest list, followed by North and South America, Asia/Australasia, Africa, a total of 336 papers. From countries (participants), Germany (48), Colombia (42), USA (40), Canada (30), etc.

The plenary speakers were: Prof. Cyrille Boyer of the University of New South Wales, Australia, Prof. Ica Manas-Zloczower of Case Western Reserve, Cleveland, USA, Prof. Tim Osswald of University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA, Prof. Alejandro Müller of Faculty of Chemistry, UPV/EHU, Spain, Prof. Christian Hopmann of RWTH Aachen University, Germany, Prof. Manjusri Misra of University of Guelph, Canada (virtually by zoom) Prof. Junwei Gu of Northwestern Polytechnical University, China, and Prof. Chul B. Park of University of Toronto, Canada.

The banquet took place at the Club Naval of Cartagena. During the banquet the awardees of PPS for 2024 were given their awards by our President Prof. Sadhan Jana. The awardees were: Prof. Ashok Misra (PPS Fellow for 2024, not present), Prof. Petr Saha (PPS Fellow for 2024), Prof. Chul B. Park (JL White Innovation Award for 2024), Prof. Junwei Gu (Lambla Award for 2024). Prof. Grace Gu (Early Career Award for 2024) was not present and will be given her award next year during PPS-40 in New Zealand.

The upcoming Conferences were also presented by their corresponding organizers. Prof. Ana Ares presented the PPS-2024 Europe/Africa Regional Conference in Ferrol, Galicia, Spain, September 30-October 3, 2024. Prof. Verbeek presented the PPS-40 International Conference to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, April 22-25, 2025. Prof. Pantani presented the PPS-41 International Conference to be held in Paestum, near Salerno, Italy, May 31-June 4, 2026.

One superb excursion happened on Monday afternoon May 20, 2024, when all delegates went on a guided tour of the castle San Felipe de Barajas, declared World Heritage Site by UNESCO. This massive Cartagena fort is located on the San Lázaro hill near the old city and it is the biggest fortress in South America. The San Felipe de Barajas castle was built during the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries by the Spanish military and African slaves. It was used to protect against the attacks of Pointis, a French pirate, and the English officer Edward Vernon. The delegates walked along the walls of the fortress and saw the cannons that remain of the 63 that once protected Cartagena de Indias. They also saw the galleries, guardhouses, and reservoirs, as well as they walked through the tunnels that were used to protect the fortress from assaults and could hold up to 300 soldiers within.



Prof. Altstaedt (President-Elect of PPS), Prof. Jana (President of PPS), Prof. Mitsoulis (Secretary of PPS) at the opening ceremony of PPS-39 International Conference.



Delegates attend the opening ceremonies of PPS-39 International Conference.



Prof. Medina and his students at the banquet of PPS-39 International Conference.



President Jana (right) gives the PPS Fellow Award for 2024 to Prof. Petr Saha during the Banquet of PPS-39 in Cartagena.



PPS Organizer Prof. Medina together with Prof. Hopmann during the Banquet of PPS-39.



PPS President-Elect Prof. Volker Altstaedt gives the closing ceremony for PPS-39 in Cartagena.

## **The PPS-2024 Europe-Africa Regional Conference, September 30-October 3, 2024, to be held in Ferrol, A Coruña, Spain**

The PPS-2024 Europe-Africa Regional Conference will be held in Ferrol, A Coruña, Spain, on September 30 (Mon)-October 3 (Thu), 2024. The Conference is organized by Prof. Ares Pernas and her team from Universidade da Coruña at the Campus Industrial de Ferrol (website: <http://pps2024ferrol.com>).

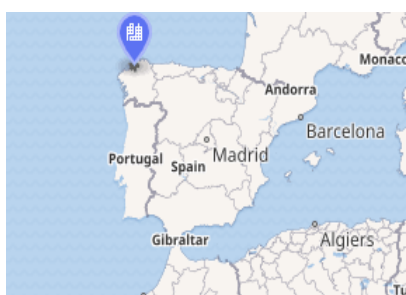
Submission of abstracts starts May 13, 2024 and submission closure is June 30, 2024. The early-bird registration fees are 550 euros for PPS members. After August 15 it is 650 euros. For non-PPS members the equivalent fees are €650 and €750. For student members they are €275 and €325, respectively. For accompanying persons, they are €75.

There are 13 general symposia. These are: Polymer Composites, Biopolymers, Sustainable Materials and Processing, Polymer Blends and Alloys, Morphology and Structure Development, Polymers and Environment, Polymer Films, Fibers, Membranes & Coatings, Rheology, Additive Manufacturing, Modeling and Simulation, Injection Molding, Molding and Molds, Extrusion, Mixing and Compounding, Foams and Other Porous Materials.

Scientific Speakers are: Dr. Celina Bernar, Instituto de Tecnologia en Polimeros y Nanotecnologia ITPN, UBA, CONISSET, Spain; Prof. Suryasarathi Bose, Indian Institute of Science, India; Dr. Mariano Campoy-Quiles, The Spanish National Research Council (CSIC), Spain; Victor Casal López, Navantia, Spain; Prof. Walter Focke, University of Pretoria, South Africa; Dr. Álvaro Goyanes, Universidad de Santiago, Spain; Dr. Zulima Martin Moreno, AIRBUS, Spain.

The Conference will take place at Ferrol, a city of 65,000 people (in 2021), in the Province of A Coruña, in Galicia, on the Atlantic coast in north-western Spain. Its harbor, for depth, capacity and safety, has few equals in Europe. The entrance is very narrow, commanded by forts, and may even be shut by a boom. The city has been a major naval shipbuilding center for most of its history, being the capital of the Spanish Navy's Maritime Department of the North since the time of the early Bourbons. Before that, in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, Ferrol had the largest arsenal in Europe. Today, the city contains some of the major shipbuilding yards of the Navantia Group.

There are buses that take you from the airport of A Coruña to Ferrol in 36 minutes (52 km). There are also many trains connecting the capital Madrid to Ferrol.



Ferrol, in north-western Spain, the place for PPS-2024 Europe-Africa Regional Conference.

Ferrol is a large maritime city in the Province of A Coruña, in Galicia, in north-western Spain.

Ferrol Port.

## **The PPS-40 International Conference, April 22-25, 2025, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand**

The PPS-40 International Conference will be held in Auckland, New Zealand, on April 22-25, 2025. The Conference is organized by Prof. Johan Verbeek and his team at the University of Auckland. The website of the Conference is: <https://www.pps-40.org/>. The email is: [PPS40@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:PPS40@auckland.ac.nz).

Submission of abstracts starts July 5, 2024 and submission closure is October 30, 2024. The early-bird registration starts on October 1, 2024 and it ends on February 10, 2025.

There will be 18 general symposia. These are: Circular Economy for Plastics, Polymer Recycling, Biopolymers, Additive Manufacturing, Polymer Composites, Injection Molding, Rubber and Elastomers, Fibers and Films, Industry 4.0 and AI, Foams and Membranes, Mixing and Compounding, Morphology and Structural Development, Polymer Blends and Alloys, Nanotechnology, Polymerization and Synthesis, Modeling and Simulation, Functional Additives and Reactive Processing, Biomedical Applications.

The Conference will take place at Auckland, a large metropolitan city in the North Island of New Zealand. The most populous urban area in the country and the fifth largest city in Oceania, Auckland has an urban population of about 1,440,300 (June 2022). While Europeans continue to make up the plurality of Auckland's population, the city became multicultural and cosmopolitan in the late-20th century, with Asians accounting for 31% of the city's population in 2018. With its large population of Pasifika New Zealanders, the city is also home to the biggest ethnic Polynesian population in the world. The Maori-language name for Auckland is *Tāmaki Makaurau*, meaning "Tāmaki desired by many", in reference to the desirability of its natural resources and geography.

There is a visa requirement for some countries. Please check.





Auckland, New Zealand, the place for PPS-40 International Conference.

Auckland is a large metropolitan city in the North Island of New Zealand.

A view of the University of Auckland in New Zealand.

## Upcoming Conferences of Interest to PPS Members

### 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference on Mechanical Engineering

Vienna, Austria

21-22 June 2024

[3rd-world-conference-on-mechanical-engineering.htm](https://www.3rd-world-conference-on-mechanical-engineering.htm)

### SOR 2024

95<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society of Rheology

Austin, Texas, USA

October 13<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

[https://www.rheology.org/sor/Annual\\_Meeting/2024Oct/Default.aspx](https://www.rheology.org/sor/Annual_Meeting/2024Oct/Default.aspx)

### ANTEC 2025

Philadelphia, PA, USA

March 3-6, 2025

[https://www.4spe.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=8330&utm\\_id=ANTE\\_2024\\_Social\\_Share](https://www.4spe.org/i4a/pages/index.cfm?pageID=8330&utm_id=ANTE_2024_Social_Share)

## Graduate and Young Research Travel Award Winners for 2024

AWARD - \$1500 USD travel award for graduate students and young researchers to travel to the PPS International Conference

- Graduate Travel Award Winners 2024
  - **Dakuri Ramakanth** – Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, India
  - **Majed Amini** – University of British Columbia, Okanagan, BC, Canada
- Young Research Travel Award Winners 2024
  - **Dr. Hadi Hosseini** – University of British Columbia, Okanagan, BC, Canada
  - **Dr. Allan Roman** – University of Wisconsin-Madison, WI, USA

## Prof. Ashok Misra, Indian Institute of Science, India, Elected PPS Fellow for 2024

Ashok Misra elected PPS Fellow for 2024.



Prof. Ashok Misra is Distinguished Professor, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru. Previously, he was Director, IIT Bombay; Chairman (India), Intellectual Ventures; and Faculty & Dean, IIT Delhi.

A distinguished engineer and scientist, Prof. Misra has for more than three decades served in the field of education as a teacher and a researcher. Prof. Misra obtained his BTech (Chemical Engineering) from IIT Kanpur in 1968, an MS (Chemical Engineering) from Tufts University in 1969, and PhD in Polymer Science & Engineering from the University of Massachusetts in 1974. He also completed the Executive Development Program at the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, in 1999.

Prof. Misra has been at IIT Delhi since 1977, most recently as Dean, Alumni Affairs & International Programs. Previously, he was the Head of the Centre for Polymer Science & Engineering from 1991 to 1994, and a Professor since 1986. He has also been a Visiting Scientist at the Monsanto Chemical Company in Springfield, Massachusetts, for many years. He previously worked at Monsanto as a Senior Research Polymer Scientist from 1974 to 1977.

During his tenure as director, IIT-B was made into a leading R&D institute while maintaining its leadership in quality engineering education in India. A distinguished and well-reputed research scientist, Prof. Misra has 70 research papers published in international journals, and has been awarded six patents.

His research interests include engineering polymers, polymer blends/alloys, fibre reinforced thermoplastic composites, liquid crystal polymers & their blends, structure-property correlations, polymer rheology & processing and incremental drawing of synthetic fibres and polymer product design.

Prof. Misra is professionally affiliated to a number of reputed organizations in the field of science. He is a Senior Member of the Society of Plastics Engineers; Member and International Representative of the Polymer Processing Society; Member, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society of North America; and a Fellow and Life Member of the Society of Polymer Science, India.

Prof. Misra has also co-authored a book titled “*Relationship of Material Properties to Structure and Estimation of Polymer Properties*” with Don J. David in 1999. A second book, titled “*Polymer Processing Analysis*” is under preparation.

#### **Awards and recognition**

Prof. Ashok Misra has been recognized for his many contributions to the field of science, and for his leadership abilities. They include:

Prof. M. Santappa Silver Jubilee Award given by The Society for Polymer Science, India, in recognition of “Outstanding Research and Leadership in Polymer Science”, 1991.

Recognized as Fellow, Indian National Academy of Engineering, 1995.

Elected Visiting Fellow Commoner, Trinity College, University of Cambridge, UK, 1999.

### **Prof. Petr Saha, Tomas Bata University, Zlin, Czech Republic, Elected PPS Fellow for 2024**

Petr Saha elected PPS Fellow for 2024.

Prof. Petr Saha is currently an Ing. Professor with Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Czech Republic. He was a Researcher and a Professor in Brno, Czech Republic, and with the Chalmers



University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden. He has been with Tomas Bata University in Zlín since 2001. Since 2010, he is a Rector of Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Czech Republic. He is a member of a number of scientific boards and higher education institutions. He published numerous articles in international journals and has more than 3000 citations in the Web of Science database.

Prof. Petr Sáha is an internationally recognized scientist in the field of polymers, an important academic figure in Czech higher education and a

promoter of education, science, and research at all levels.

He is the founder of Tomas Bata University in Zlín (TBU), which he led as Rector for four terms of office. He currently works at TBU as the Director of the University Institute, which brings together the university's research centers.

Throughout his life, Prof. Sáha has been professionally engaged in research in the field of polymers and polymer processes from various points of view and various aspects of their use. The most recent focus of his research activity lies in energetic materials. Professionally, he currently leads the research direction "Energy and Composite Materials" at the Centre of Polymer Systems of TBU in Zlín.

## **JLWhite Innovation Award for 2024 Goes to Prof. Chul B. Park, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada**

The James L White Award was given at PPS-39 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, to Chul B. Park.



Professor Chul B. Park is recognized with this prestigious James L. White Innovation Award for his innovation in supercritical foaming technologies, for which he was the major inventor.

His innovative research has led to commercialization of numerous practiced technologies, such as the MuCell® injection molding technology licensed and practiced by Trexel, the MuCell extrusion foaming technology licensed and practiced by MuCell Extrusion/Zote Foam, the rotomolding PP foam technology licensed and practiced by Ingenia, the supercritical GNP exfoliation technology licensed and practiced by NanoXplore, and so on. He has also contributed to the Crocs shoe technology by removing the crocodile surface. In addition, he

has contributed significantly to the replacement of the environmentally hazardous HCFC-based blowing agents with supercritical-fluid blowing agents in PS insulation foam processing. He also invented the two-peak expanded PLA bead-foam technology with his team to replace the EPS, and this technology was exclusively licensed to Synbra and now Bewi.

Professor Park holds the post of Distinguished Professor of Microcellular Engineered Plastics at University of Toronto. Professor Park is also the Director of the Microcellular Plastics Manufacturing Laboratory, which is highly regarded as one of the world's pioneering research institutions in the refining of plastics foaming technology.

Professor Park is an accomplished scientist with an outstanding track record in the field of polymer foam processing, for which he has garnered international recognition. He has identified the fundamental mechanisms in the mysterious foam technologies, elucidated the effects of gas on the thermodynamic and rheological properties of various plastics and composites, and invented numerous foam processing technologies. His research has had a major impact in his research field, and he is one of the most cited researchers in polymer processing and foaming. He is the author or co-author of over 2500 professional publications, including four books, 550 journal papers, 500 conference papers, and 30 patents. His publications have earned him a Scopus H-Index of 94 and Scopus Citations of 32,000.

Because his inventions are internationally recognized, Professor Park has attracted numerous industrial companies to work with his research group at University of Toronto through contracts or Consortia. More than 50% of his research funds (~US\$45M) came from industry. Most of his research funds have been used to hire and train research staff (i.e., postdocs and students). All the research staff are trained to work on both technology and relevant science. More than 300 people have been engaged and trained in his lab: 75 (72 completed + 3 current) postdocs, 110 (83 completed + 27 current) PhD students, and 138 (completed) Master students. 44 amongst these trainees became professors. He models the importance of working in collaborative teams with industrial companies while focusing on industrially relevant, innovative technology development based on the fundamental scientific findings. His approach has been very successful, and he became a trend setter for plastic foaming research.

In recognition of his distinguished research achievements, he received over 100 awards and honours in his career. He has been inducted into 6 national academies: The Academy of Sciences of the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Korean Academy of Science and Technology, the National Academy of Engineering of Korea, the European Academy of Science, and the Chinese Academy of Engineering. He is also recognized as a Fellow of 6 professional organizations including the Society of Plastics Engineers.

## **Lambla Award winner for 2024 is Junwei Gu of Northwestern Polytechnical University, China**

The Lambla Award was given at PPS-39 in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, to Prof. Junwei Gu.



**Junwei Gu** is a Professor, Ph.D. supervisor, Chinese National-Level Leading Talent, Leader of the Shaanxi Provincial Science and Technology Innovation Team for "Thermally Conductive Polymer Composites", Dean of the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering in Northwestern Polytechnical University.

He has been elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, a Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society, and a Fellow of the Institute of Materials, Minerals & Mining. He currently serves as the Deputy Secretary-General, Director, Deputy Chair of the Youth Working Committee, and Executive



Deputy Director of the Thermal Conductive Composite Materials Professional Committee of the Chinese Society for Composite Materials.

He has received four provincial and ministerial-level scientific research awards, including the Second Prize of the Shaanxi Provincial Natural Science Award and the Second Prize of the Ministry of Education's Technological Invention Award. He has also been honored with prestigious awards, such as the Young Scientist Award from the Chinese Society for Composite Materials, and the Innovative Award for Polymer Forming Processing and Industrial Development.

## **Early Career Award for 2024 goes to Prof. Grace Gu of the University of California, Berkeley, USA**

The Early Career Award will be given at PPS-40 in Auckland, New Zealand, to Prof. Grace Gu.



**Dr. Grace X. Gu** is an Assistant Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of California, Berkeley.

She received her PhD and MS in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Her research focuses on creating new materials with superior properties for mechanical, biological, and energy applications using multiphysics modeling and artificial intelligence, as well as developing intelligent polymer additive manufacturing processes to realize complex material designs.

Recently, her group is working on in-situ monitoring and process optimization for additive manufacturing of sustainable materials such as biopolymers, recycled materials, and calcium carbonate-based composites, aiming to enhance their quality and reliability. Her work has been highlighted in various media outlets such as Popular Science, Smithsonian magazine, and 3D-Printing Industry.

She is the recipient of several awards, including the PPS Early Career Award, Sloan Research Fellowship, TMS Early Career Faculty Fellow Award, PMSE ACS Young Investigator Award, ARO Early Career Program Award, LLNL Early Career UC Faculty Initiative Award, DARPA Young Faculty Award, Materials Today Rising Star Award, ASME Orr Early Career Award, ONR Young Investigator Award, and 3M Non-Tenured Faculty Award.

She has given dozens of invited lectures and seminars, including TEDxBerkeley. Gu has co-organized symposia at various conferences and serves on the advisory boards of several journals, including Composites Science and Technology, MRS Communications, and Materials Horizons.



## Josef Kubát (January 11, 1927 – December 16, 2023)

*Emeritus Professor of Engineering Josef Kubát passed away on December 16, 2023.*



**Josef Kubát** (January 11, 1927 – December 16, 2023) was born in a small mountain village in the Czech borderlands. Young Josef was sent by his mother to Stockholm, Sweden, two years after the end of World War II.

He studied theoretical physics and chemistry and worked at the Swedish Forest Products Research Laboratory. When the Swedish Society of Rheology was founded in 1956, Josef Kubát was elected its first Secretary. He wrote a thesis titled “A similarity in the stress relaxation behaviour of high polymers and metals” and obtained his Doctor of Science degree from the University of Stockholm, in 1965. He worked as a researcher at the Royal Institute of Technology and in 1969 he was invited to establish the Department of Polymer Materials at the Chalmers University of Technology. Two regional PPS conferences were organized in Gothenburg in 1997 and 2007, by faculty members of this department and Josef was a member of the organizing committees.

At Chalmers, the pipe-smoking Josef worked on stress relaxation of polymers, physical aging and related phenomena, electrical properties, polymer composites, and polymer processing. It might be noted that thanks to an efficient fume-hood installed in his office, Josef was the only person allowed to smoke at Chalmers. For most of his life he worked during the nights, leaving the office around 8 o'clock in the morning with tasks completed and notes left on the tables of his co-workers.

He was Chair of the Organizing Committee of the 7<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Rheology, in Gothenburg in 1976, with over 500 participants, 243 presentations, including 29 invited, in six parallel sessions. Josef Kubát had many contacts with rheologists from around the world and he was also a member of the German Society of Rheology since 1952. In 1999 during the annual conference in Leipzig, he was awarded the "Ehrenmitgliedschaft" (Honorary Membership) for his “services to rheology in Europe.” Only eight people have received this honour, Josef was the third, after Ludwig Prandtl (1952) and Kurt Kirschke (1995).

Besides his professional area, Josef had an excellent knowledge of history, politics, economy, literature and music. In 1947 he arrived in Sweden, having only a book of Swedish grammar written in French, but he acquired outstanding skills in Swedish. During international meetings he was able to hold conversations simultaneously in English, Swedish, German, French, and all the Slavic languages.

For his scientific contributions and for his efforts to help science and education in the Czech Republic, he was awarded the “Josef Hlávka Medal” and received “doctor honoris causa” from the Brno University of Technology, Faculty of Technology (which has been a part of Tomas Bata University in Zlin since 2001), where Josef had served as a Professor for the last 30 years. In Sweden, Josef Kubát obtained “Kungliga Nordstjärneorden” (The Royal Order of the Polar Star) from HM The King Carl XVI Gustaf. The Latin motto of this award is “Nescit occasum”, which translates as “it knows no setting” (like a never setting star).

## **Ali Asghar Katbab (July 17, 1951 – January 12, 2024)**

*Professor of Engineering Ali Asghar Katbab passed away on January 12, 2024.*



Dr. Ali Asghar Katbab, founder of polymer engineering and a member of the Faculty of Polymer and Color Engineering, Amirkabir University of Technology, after 45 years of service in science and engineering has passed away on January 12, 2024.

He was one of the founders of Polymer Engineering in Iran, who has discussed this in the book “Karestan” in the form of a detailed discussion.

The deeply saddening loss of Dr. Ali Asghar Katbab, one of the esteemed and

pioneering professors of the Faculty of Polymer and Color Engineering at Amirkabir University of Technology, who dedicated his precious life to educating students and professionals, is extended condolences to his respected family and the scientific community of Iran, especially the members of Amirkabir University.

According to the Public Relations Office of Amirkabir University of Technology, Dr. Ali Asghar Katbab, a distinguished professor of the Faculty of Polymer Engineering, was born in Shiraz on July 17, 1951. Dr. Katbab obtained his bachelor's degree in Chemistry from Shiraz University, then went to the UK with a scholarship from the Ministry of Science and obtained his master's and doctorate degrees in Polymer Physical Chemistry from the University of Aston in Birmingham. In 1980, after completing his doctoral studies, he returned to Iran and worked in the tire industry, eventually becoming the manager of compounding and R&D at the Iran Tire Factory.

In 1982, Dr. Katbab joined the faculty of Amirkabir University of Technology as a faculty member and began his activities in the Faculty of Chemical Engineering. He made significant efforts to establish the Rubber Engineering and Plastic Engineering workshops and launch the Polymer Engineering program. Additionally, he initiated the Polymer Engineering department at the Islamic Azad University (Science and Research Branch) and taught and conducted research there for 13 years.

Dr. Katbab offered courses in Elastomer Engineering at the undergraduate level, and in the determination of properties, specifications, and applications of nanopolymeric materials, as well as innovative methods of polymer analysis and advanced polymer identification at the master's and doctoral levels.

Dr. Katbab published three books on rubber, titled "Science and Engineering of Rubbers" and "Elastomeric Nanocomposite Foams", and "Shape Memory Polymers (Principles, Achievements, and Applications)".

Dr. Katbab supervised and guided 109 students at the master's and doctoral levels. Among his first doctoral students, we can mention Dr. Hamid Mirzadeh and Dr. Fatemeh Goharpai, who are now professors at the Faculty of Polymer and Color Engineering.

## **John Dealy (March 23, 1937 – January 15, 2024)**

*Emeritus Professor of Engineering John Dealy passed away on January 15, 2024.*



It is with great sadness that we announce the death of Dr. John Michael Dealy on January 15, 2024 at the age of 86 in Westmount, Quebec, Canada.

In 1964, John came to Montreal to start work at McGill University after receiving his MSE and PhD from the University of Michigan. He was appointed Full Professor a mere nine years later, served as Chair of the Department of Chemical Engineering from 1993 to 1994 and served as a popular Dean of Engineering from 1994 until 1999, before becoming Professor Emeritus in 2004. Throughout the years, his research and writing took him on sabbatical to England, The United States, France and Japan.

John was a member of the Canadian Society of Chemical Engineering, the Society of Plastics Engineers and the Canadian Society of Rheology. He served as president of

the Society of Rheology from 1987 to 1989, was a fellow of the Polymer Processing Society, and was awarded the 1997 S.G. Mason Award from the Canadian Rheology Group as well as the 1998 Bingham Medal of the Society of Rheology. He was known for teaching rheology in an understandable and logical way, as demonstrated in his many manuscripts and books.

He held several academic awards, including his fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada. He is the author of four books and holds four patents. While an academic to the core he loved a good laugh, once convincing his young grandchildren that he invented Jell-O only to have the formula stolen by a secret agent in a dark alley. They ate it up along with the six layer Jell-O cake he delivered to the house as “proof”.

Music was always playing in his house from one source or another. John played many instruments including double bass, piano, clarinet, guitar, and a harpsichord he built himself and would play the evenings he was not working. Even when he was working, music could be heard coming from beneath his office door.

Although he officially retired in 2004 (or as he would put it, no longer receiving a salary) he continued with his research as a “hobby” and remained an important part of the McGill family as Professor Emeritus representing the McGill retirees on the MAUT Council, quadrupling membership with popular McGill Faculty Club retiree luncheons. John maintained close ties with colleagues and valued graduate students alike all over the world.

He used his newly found time to follow his passion for travel and the arts, attending numerous musical events and the theatre. He also became more involved with the Unitarian Church. John will be remembered as an outstanding teacher and a loving father and grandfather who reminded his grandchildren of how important a hug a day is. Despite his memory failing at a rapid pace and his words few in his final months, his purpose and message remained the same, just months ago he was heard explaining to a visitor that his intent in life was to “take a bunch of people, give them knowledge and send them out into the world to make it a better place”.

John leaves behind his brother David, daughter Pamela (David Rees) and his two cherished grandchildren Emily and John. He is predeceased by his beloved wife of 46 years Jacqueline Déry. He also leaves in mourning a wonderful life partner in the last years of his life, Andrea Deardorff.

## **Next Newsletter – November 2024**

If you have comments on how to improve this newsletter or want to share some information in the next one, please contact the Newsletter Editor Prof. Evan Mitsoulis at [mitsouli@metal.ntua.gr](mailto:mitsouli@metal.ntua.gr). The next issue of the Newsletter is due in November 2024.