



# PPS-20

POLYMER PROCESSING SOCIETY

2004 ANNUAL MEETING & 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JUNE 20-24 2004 Akron, Ohio USA

## Welcome to Akron



**Dr. Lloyd A. Goettler**  
Chair, Department of  
Polymer Engineering

Professor of  
Polymer Engineering

Dear delegates,

Welcome to Akron, Ohio in the USA, the site of the 2004 PPS-20 conference. Twenty years ago the Polymer Processing Society was founded here in Akron by Prof. James Lindsay White of The University of Akron and a small group of academic and industrial scientists and engineers working in the field of polymer processing. The first PPS meeting was held in Akron about a year later, in 1985.

Much has transpired in the intervening years since the founding of the Society, both to Akron and to the profession. To begin with, the Department of Polymer Engineering at The University of Akron, founded in 1983 also by Dr. White, has prospered and now comprises 13 faculty and 100 graduate students housed in adjoining administrative and research facilities. It belongs to the College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering, a unique focus on polymer technology among universities worldwide. Basic studies in the classical fundamentals of mixing, extrusion and molding are now accompanied by courses in polymer nanostructures, nanocomposites, photonics and high performance coatings. These new directions have become part of polymer technology globally. Education itself has taken on a global character, in the form of distance learning using wide bandwidth transmission and the internet, which is manifested here in Akron as the Akron Global Polymer Academy, also a part of our College.

The Akron you see today also is not the same as the city of even 20 years ago. Only one of the major tire companies that gave Akron the moniker "Rubber Capital of the World" still has a headquarters in Akron, though several still have technical centers here. The polymer industry has become globalized and diversified and still is transforming itself into new niche technologies. Tire manufacturing on a commercial scale is no longer part of the Akron scene. It has been replaced by new high tech polymer companies that are making a foothold among a consolidated polymer industry that has traditionally been based in north-eastern Ohio. The city itself is undergoing renewal as well - the central district now houses a baseball stadium, a renovated art deco style theatre, the National Inventors Hall of Fame and a conference center. We will be holding events in the last three locations in conjunction with PPS-20. We hope that you will also have a chance to discover some of the beautiful countryside surrounding Akron in the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the system of Akron Metropolitan Parks and the interesting Amish homesteads located both to our north and south.

Most importantly, of course, is the technical content of our conference. With four hundred presentations in twenty symposia and an interactive poster area we are sure that there will be pertinent material for all delegates. We have also blocked time for personal discussions and networking, as we provide opportunities for all of the delegates to socialize on each evening of the conference, beginning with our Welcoming Reception on Sunday. There will be food and refreshments provided at all of these events, as part of your registration.

So please, make the most of your experience at PPS-20 and enjoy yourselves in Akron.

Lloyd A. Goettler and Avraam I. Isayev  
PPS-20 General Co-Chairs