

AU hosts international conference on glass research

9/01/03

More than 140 participants from 14 countries attended the 7th International Conference on Advances in Fusion and Processing of Glass held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Rochester last month. Glass experts from industry and academia exchanged ideas, experimental results and statistical data on worldwide state-of-the-art commercial glass melting and processing. The conference was organized and co-chaired by Dr. James R. Varner and Dr. Thomas P. Seward, professors in the School Engineering at Alfred University (AU), and Dr. Helmut Schaeffer, director of the Research Association of the German Glass Industry (HVG) and the German Society of Glass Technology (DGG). Conference proceedings will be published later this year as a volume in the American Ceramic Society's Ceramic Transactions series. Invited speakers from Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Russia and the United States addressed topics as varied as advances in the glass melting process, glass melt properties, materials for glassmaking, control of redox dependent properties, computer modeling and process control, and secondary processing. At the opening session, invited speakers Ruud G.C. Beerkens (TNO and Eindhoven University of Technology, the Netherlands), Reinhardt Conradt (RWTH Aachen Institut für Gesteinshüttenkunde, Germany) and Mark D. Allendorf (Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, CA) discussed "Analysis of Advanced and Fast Fining Processes," "Glass Melting Treated as a Cyclic Process of an Imperfect Heat Exchanger," and "Analytical Models for High Temperature Corrosion of Silica in Glass-Melting Furnaces." There were more than 50 oral and poster-style presentations on the above topics and more. The conference concluded with a one-day workshop sponsored by the Glass Manufacturing Industry Council (GMIC), the NSF Industry/University Center for Glass Research (CGR) and the US Department of Energy Industrial Technologies Program (DOE-IPT) on "Evolutionary and Revolutionary Strategies for Keeping Glass Viable through the 21st Century." The workshop was chaired by Seward, who is director of the Center for Glass Research, and GMIC executive director Michael Greenman, and included a panel discussion, with audience participation, facilitated by Dr. James G. Seebold (Chevron-Texaco, retired). Topics identified for further attention by the assembled experienced glass professionals include improved fining and conditioning of glass, better process sensors, funding needed for research by the glass industry, improvements in international communication and collaboration, and environmental and regulatory opportunities. Dr. L. David Pye, professor emeritus of glass science at Alfred University and founding director of the Center for Glass Research, inaugurated this series of international conferences on glass in 1988 at Alfred University. With the strong support of the Research Association of the German Glass Industry (HVG) and the German Society of Glass Technology (DGG), the original conference has developed into a series alternating biennially or triennially between the United States and Germany. In Rochester, Dr. Schaeffer announced the eighth conference in the series would be held in Germany in 2006.