

## ICOTOM 15 Makes Strong Return to United States

**Held outside the United States for the past 21 years, the 15th International Conference on Textures of Materials drew a record attendance to Pittsburgh.**

ICOTOM 15, jointly organized by The American Ceramic Society and The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society, and held June 1-6, 2008, in Pittsburgh, has a 30-year history few other educational events can match.

As Organizing Committee Chair A.D. (Tony)



**Rollett**

Rollett, professor of materials science and engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, explained in his opening remarks, the very first ICOTOM had taken place in

1969 in Clausthal, Germany.

That meeting had come about because a small group of scientists working independently on isolated issues relating to the texture and anisotropy of materials had felt the need to share ideas on the mutually interesting, scientifically challenging experimental and theoretical approaches to the measurement and evaluation of texture.

Rollett told attendees that, even though 21 years had passed since the most recent ICOTOM had taken place in the United States, the conference continued to be relevant, because materials anisotropy is critical to the development and optimization of – not just structural materials – but also to such cutting-edge concepts as piezoelectric transducers, magnetic materials for data storage, thin-film devices of all types and high-temperature superconductors.

He credited and thanked ICOTOM's international and organizing committees for creating a memorable 2008 program that included 302 presentations, 80 posters and a special series of four short courses chaired by Carlos Tomé from Los Alamos National Lab.

Beyond the quality of its educational



**Attendees traded news and views at the welcome reception at Carnegie Mellon's College of Fine Arts.**

sessions, ICOTOM 15 also offered outstanding social events where scientists and engineers could share ideas and network in a casual, relax-



**Attendees gave rapt attention to the 80 posters that comprised this year's poster session.**



**An international community of scientists and engineers gathered for ICOTOM's symposia lineup of 302 presentations and series of four short courses.**





Attendees did more networking on the river dinner cruise, featuring guest speaker and noted textures-and-anisotropy expert, Fred Kocks, now retired from Los Alamos Nation Lab.

ing atmosphere. The opening day gala welcome reception, river cruise and Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game were such events.

Another treat was the Heinz Chapel tour and demonstration, led by Rollett and his wife, Rebecca. While Rollett discussed materials used to create the Heinz Chapel and its awe-inspiring organs, Rebecca provided a recital. ■

### **Journal of the American Ceramic Society Gains in Impact**

Results of the Thomson ISI 2007 Journal Citation Report confirm that ACerS' *Journal of the American Ceramic Society* and the *International Journal of Applied Ceramic Technology*, are having a major impact in the scientific community.

The *Journal* showed a 28 percent increase in impact and posted a new ISI Impact Factor of 1.792. Roughly speaking, Impact Factor is a measurement of how frequently a publication's articles are cited in relation to the number of papers published.

This returned the *Journal* to its number one position in the ceramics category, with its sister publication, the *International Journal of Applied Ceramic Technology*, following closely in the number three spot, with an ISI Impact Factor of 1.366.

Commenting on these favorable

results, David J. Green, JACerS senior editor, said, "The ISI Impact Factor not only increased significantly, but it is also the highest it has been for several years. Although we think that Impact Factor is not the only metric that describes the quality of a journal, we recognize it as the most familiar. In the past 12 months,

we have made some changes to our reviewing procedures aimed at making additional improvements. Hopefully, this will translate to further increases in our future Impact Factors."

The gains are also a tribute to the hard work of the panel of volunteer associate editors and reviewers who

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