

INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS SYMPOSIUM

DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS C. HOFELICH



The Officers and Directors of The Calorimetry Conference respectfully dedicate the Industrial Applications Symposium at CALCON 2008 to the memory of our esteemed colleague and friend, Thomas C. Hofelich. Tom contributed enormously to the overall success of The Calorimetry Conference, and we're extremely grateful for his friendship and service over the past several decades.

Thomas Charles Hofelich was born in Troy, NY and graduated with a BS in Chemistry from Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY in 1975. Tom pursued graduate studies at the State University of New York at Buffalo in the laboratory of Calvin Ritchie, where he characterized solvent and structural effects on reaction rates and equilibria. Following completion of his PhD in Physical Organic Chemistry in 1980, Tom conducted post-doctoral studies at Duke University in the laboratory of Edward M. Arnett (Hugh M. Huffman Memorial Award Recipient, The 53rd Calorimetry Conference), where he focused on developing novel calorimetric methods to study organic reactive intermediates at low temperatures.

Tom began his professional career at The Dow Chemical Company and eventually joined the Thermal Lab in Analytical Sciences in Midland, Michigan. He was a creative experimentalist who developed instrumentation and techniques to address a wide range of industrial problems using many different types of calorimetry. Tom pioneered the application of open-cup ARC and kinetic modeling to quantify oxidative heating in solids and applied the method to solve important process safety questions on a large scale relating to carbon beds, insulation, absorbents, and extruder patties. Tom led the development of a 100-cell array calorimeter as described in his paper "A Large Array Calorimeter for Support of Combinatorial Research" presented at The 56th Calorimetry Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado (2001). He also developed a broad range of calorimetric techniques to characterize reactive systems in the assessment of runaway reaction hazards, including the development and commercialization of the Two Drop Calorimeter to measure heats of mixing.

In recognition for his innovations in the development and application of Calorimetric Techniques, Tom received numerous awards including the James J. Christensen Memorial Award at The 50th Calorimetry Conference in Gaithersburg, Maryland (1995). Tom's award presentation was entitled: "Calorimetric Instrumentation in Industry: Past Successes, Future Challenges". Tom was elected to the Board of Directors and organized The 53rd Calorimetry Conference in Midland, Michigan (1998), serving in the dual role of Program and Local Arrangements Chair. Tom was instrumental in securing financial donations from The Dow Chemical Company to fund the William F. Giaque Travel Awards for graduate students to attend The Calorimetry Conference during the period of 1997 to 2002.

Tom Hofelich passed away at the age of 52 on March 11, 2006 from complications due to brain cancer. Tom was a great intellect, respected colleague, and passionate human being, a scientist well known for his experimental and theoretical advances in calorimetry, thermal analysis, and reactive chemicals/hazard evaluation. We are better because he journeyed with us. Tom made a difference.