

UNH Materials Science Seminar

11:10-12:00, Thursday, September 11, 2008

DeMeritt Hall 238

University of New Hampshire

Polymers from Renewable Resources

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The “Age of Green Chemistry”, which began to accelerate a couple of decades ago, has given rise to many interesting questions regarding polymers. For instance:

- Why are renewable resource polymers of interest?
- What has been the progress in polymers from renewable resources?
- Much is said and much is claimed for these new polymers, but what is the reality?
- What is the most reasonable pathforward, both technically and economically?

All the above are complex and interesting questions with no simple answers. Nevertheless, an attempt will be made to provide some insights from a personal perspective of someone who has been involved for many years.

Dr. Graham Swift has been involved in all phases of technology development in the polymer and plastics industry for many years, including synthesis of various polymeric materials and applications development in coatings, corrosion, water treatment, personal care, etc., all at Rohm and Haas Company, and extrusion and general synthesis of plastics based on renewable resources. He was also involved in standards development in ASTM related to environmentally degradable polymers and plastics. Dr. Swift is author or co-author of ca. 150 scientific publications, and editor of several technical books on coatings and plastic disposal. He has been symposium organizer and presenter worldwide on environmentally degradable polymers and plastics. He has been an independent consultant for 6 years.

Host: Professor Yvon Durant x1703