

The 67<sup>th</sup> Sugar Industry Technologists Conference was held in Leipzig, Germany in late May. Don Ryan, this year's president, welcomed delegates and guests in his opening comments, and also thanked Südzucker as hosts for the 2008 meeting. He spoke of his appreciation to a number of organizations that joined together to offer pre- and post-congress tours, including ESCON GmbH, Schmidt & Haensch GmbH, Barteks Verlag, BMA, BMA Schaltanlagen, GEA, IPRO, Putsch and Seimens.

Jeff Robinson, SIT's past president, organized an interesting program including a special demonstration of the explosiveness of sugar dust. Amelia Andrade Ferraz organized the symposiums for this year's meeting with topics including "Final Molasses Purity – Energy Balance, Product mix, Sucrose Content, Raw Sugar Pol" and Strategies to Reduce and Treat Waste Liquid Effluents."

Dr. Markwart Kuntz, director of Südzucker, was the Keynote Speaker and discussed the "Changing Conditions of the EU Sugar Industry."

2007/08 Officers include: Donald Ryan, President; Amelia Ferraz, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Stephen Clarke, Vice President-Finance; Jeffrey Robinson, Immediate Past President and Leon Anhauser, Executive Director.

Awards presented this year include:

George and Eleanor Meade Award-Best Paper Presented at the 2007 SIT Conference "Fast Track Implementation of One of the World's Largest and Most Complex Sugar Factory Projects" by Arno Jansen/Schaffer and Associates and Malcolm Wade/United States Sugar Corporation.

Frank Chapman Memorial Award-Best Poster at the 2007 SIT Conference "Progress Replacement of Bone Char Decolorization by Resins Decolorization at Lantic Sugar Refinery" by Matthieu Lafrance and Jean Leblanc/Lantic Sugar and Francis Gula & Xavier Lancrenon, Applexion/Novasep.

SIT Crystal Award-Outstanding Achievement to Sugar Technology to Jeffrey Robinson/American Sugar Refining, Inc.

Jeffrey Robinson

Jeff, from Baltimore, MD, graduated from the University of Maryland with a BS in Chemical Engineering in 1968. After college, he began his professional career working for EI DuPont de Nemours & Company as a project engineer at the New Jersey facility. Several years later, he joined Amstar Corporation at the Baltimore refinery as a process engineer, working with the optimization/improvement of the fixed bed adsorption system utilizing bone char and vacuum pan crystallization. He earned his MBA from the University of Baltimore while continuing his work at the refinery. During his lengthy career in the sugar industry, Jeff gained a very broad knowledge of sugar refining operations while serving in several management positions as Process Manager, Engineering Manager and Production Manager. He became Director of Quality

Management of Domino Sugar Corporation in 1992, and assumed his current position as Technical Director of American Sugar Refining, Inc. in 1998.

Through the years, Jeff has worked on many initiatives associated with raw sugar quality, evaporator design, pan floor automation, increasing melt rate capacity, technical and sucrose loss control, packaging equipment modernization, new product development and the implementation of ISO 9002 and total quality management systems. His accomplishments included a lead role in the first ever refinery-to-refinery transportation of bulk sucrose liquor (#1 liquor) in the United States by ocean going barge from Baltimore to the then operating Brooklyn, NY refinery.

The staff at Sugar Journal congratulates Jeff on this award and all of his accomplishments.