

SEPTEMBER 15-19, 2003
LEUVEN, BELGIUM

Was it the beautiful Indian summer that had Belgium in its power, was it the beautiful scenery of the Arenberg Castle or was it really the quality of the faculty that did the job? The fact is that 60 people - consisting of 15 nationalities - took part in the European School of Rheology, organized for the 5th time on behalf of the Belgian Group of Rheology and the European Society of Rheology at the Department of Chemical Engineering of the K.U. Leuven in Belgium. Of course, we have to admit that a program with Gerry Fuller, Giuseppe Marrucci, Hans Martin Laun, Roland Keunings, Chris Macosko and the local staff of the K.U. Leuven might seem attractive but such a success was not foreseen. In any case, the environment was set and the participants were motivated for a charged program.

Basically, the course consisted of three parts: two that can be classified as really scientific and a third one that was organized to relax the mind. Needless to say that also this third part was highly appreciated. This is not so difficult to imagine if you consider that this program consisted of a visit to the beautiful city of Leuven, a visit to a well-known house-brewery and a dinner in a Michelin-star restaurant. The focus of this rheology course was however on science. Here the participants were submerged in both theoretical as well as in more practical aspects of rheology and rheological measurements. The lab sessions covered both the more classical rheological methods, such as dynamic measure-

ments, stress- and strain-controlled rheometry, as well as more advanced rheo-optical methods such as small angle light scattering and polarimetry. Needless to say that the lab-staff (especially the Ph.D. students of the group) had a more than (over)active role in this part of the course.

In summary, it has been a fun but also a tough week: 5 days filled with lectures and lab sessions are hard and are perhaps sometimes difficult to digest. However, we had a great group of people together and it was a pleasure for us and for the rest of the staff to interact with them and we are looking forward to meeting each other again somewhere in the world of rheology.

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*Group picture in front of
the Arenberg Castle.*