

AMERICAN CERAMIC SOCIETY

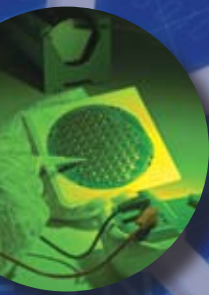
# bulletin

emerging ceramics & glass technology

JUNE/JULY 2009

## Ceramic education:

Educators, students and employers discuss changes forced by jobs, enrollment and research



ACerS launches new glass journal and website •

Nominations for Fellows •

MS&T: ACerS pre-meeting planner and new symposium •

## Toledo student team places high in ORNL's Global Venture Challenge

Armed with a concept of converting greenhouse gases to syngas (see March 2009 *Bulletin*), a team of University of Toledo students and faculty earned an Honorable Mention award and a \$1,000 prize during an annual competition sponsored by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in which science–engineering–business teams vied for the opportunity to connect with venture capitalists.

The UT team consisted of one engineering student, two business students and two coaches, including engineering professor Abdul-Majeed Azad. The UT team was among more than 30 teams who initially submitted proposals to ORNL's 2009 Global Venture Challenge.

The merit of the UT team's idea earned it and 14 other groups an invitation to ORNL to compete in late March for a \$25,000 top prize. There, they faced two additional rounds of grueling screening. Ultimately, the judges placed UT in the final round with teams from Clark Atlanta University/Morehouse College, Duke University, Lund University, Purdue University and University of North Carolina, Charlotte.

Rich is a member of the Material Advantage student organization.

Rich was selected by a faculty committee from among the Ph.D. students enrolled in the school of engineering, based on his academic performance and research proposal. His current project, "Metallic Colloid Formation in Glass," will explore the formation of metallic nanoparticles in glasses through exposure to a hydrogen-rich atmosphere.

"The possibility of creating metallic alloys in glasses and understanding the mechanisms that govern this reduction process is exciting and appears to be very promising," said Rich. ■

### Messing tackles new editing post

Pennsylvania State University professor Gary L. Messing has been tapped

"We did fight very well in the finals for the top prize of \$25k, but couldn't connect to the venture capitalist judges' outlook for a great business model, despite presenting a radically innovative idea to combat global warming due to greenhouse gases," reported the UT team.

"But talking to ORNL people and other participants and based on the feedback from the judges in all the rounds, we realized that our concept struck a cord with a greater audience, as it offers a totally new and value-added concept of mitigating GHGs. We were placed among the 'honorable mention' team of the finalists, which in itself is a great honor. We received a citation and will also receive a \$1,000 award," the team spokesman also said.

to be the new editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Materials Research*. Messing, a past president of ACerS, has published more than 250 papers and co-edited 13 books on various aspects of ceramic processing.

Messing was co-editor of the *Journal of the American Ceramic Society* from 1993 to 1998, editor-in-chief of *Ceramics International* and principal editor of *Materials Letters* from 2003 to 2009.

Messing is the head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at Penn State. He is an ACerS Fellow and has received numerous awards for his research and leadership in the field of ceramics, including the Richard M. Fulrath Pacific Award and the ACerS Robert M. Sosman



**A business proposal to tackle greenhouse gases gained the UT team members recognition at ORNL's Global Venture Challenge. Team members, left to right, are team coaches Azad and business professor Sonny Ariss, along with MBA candidates Jonathan Johnson and Emily Sack, UT R&D staffer Samuel Giles and chemical engineering graduate student Desikan Sundararajan.**

In related news, UT presented Azad with the school's Outstanding Faculty Researcher Award for the 2008–2009 academic year. Each year, UT recognizes the quality and contributions of faculty research by presenting the OFRA. The award recognizes outstanding research, scholarship or creative activity in any field, discipline or area at the university, and Azad was so nominated by fellow faculty members. (See [www.globalventurechallenge.com](http://www.globalventurechallenge.com)) ■

Memorial Lecture.

In 1999 he was elected to the World Academy of Ceramics. In 2003 Messing was recognized as one of the most "Highly Cited Researchers" in materials and was honored with the International Award of the European Ceramic Society for his international collaborations. In 2005 he received the Outstanding Educator Award of the Ceramic Education Council of ACerS and in 2008 was elected president-elect of the International Ceramics Federation. ■



**Messing**