The Sundial Plaza and the William R. Martin, Jr. walkway leading up to the AATCC Technical Center in Research Triangle Park, N.C., U.S.A.
Leaving a Legacy

Former AATCC Executive Director William R. Martin is Honored by the AATCC Foundation

The AATCC Foundation has created an opportunity for our members and supporters to have their names inscribed in bricks for the walkway to the Sundial Plaza at the AATCC Technical Center. The walkway will be named in honor of William R. “Bill” Martin Jr., who served as Executive Director from 1973 to 1996. All proceeds for the brick inscriptions will be used to enhance the charitable research, education, and scholarship mission of the Foundation.

Martin, a native of Cary, N.C., began his career in the textile industry in October 1950 when he joined AATCC as a student member of the North Carolina State College chapter.

The stages of his distinguished career include the Stamford (Conn.) research laboratories of American Cyanamid, Dan River Mills, Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Co. (Union Carbide), Department of Textile Chemistry at North Carolina State College (now North Carolina State University (NCSU)), and, finally, AATCC as technical director in 1963. The early 60s was an exciting time for the Association, as the Technical Center was just being moved from its home in Lowell, Mass., to Research Triangle Park, N.C.

During his tenure as technical director for AATCC, Martin assisted in the creation of the Association’s workshop and symposia programs utilizing the laboratory facilities at the new Technical Center. In the early 50s, AATCC became involved with the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). Martin played a major role in the success AATCC has enjoyed over the years in ISO. In fact, the ISO TC 38 Subcommittee 1 Tests for Coloured Textiles and Colorants met at the AATCC Technical Center in 1964. Martin was also active in the Pan American Standards Commission (COPANT). He has been a member of a number of U.S. delegations to both ISO and COPANT meetings.

In addition to serving as an ex-officio member of the many and varied committees of AATCC, Martin also served as secretary of the Executive Committee on Research, the Colour Index Editorial Committee, the Committee on Technical Subjects, and the Intersectional Technical Paper Committee.

In 1971, Martin was named deputy executive director to succeed George Paine. When Paine retired in 1973, Martin was named executive director of AATCC. As executive director, Martin managed the expansion of the Association’s educational programs, both in terms of subjects taught and the number of locations where the courses were held. He made sure that the technical staff was available to help the committees—especially for the development of test methods, thinking that many of them could become international test methods. Martin also expanded the Association staff, adding a membership services director to assist the membership chairman of each section with recruiting and maintaining both individual and corporate members. Also during his tenure, AATCC adopted its first computer system based on Wang technology.

Martin was an educator, teaching a human resources course as a special lecturer in the Department of Economics and Business at NCSU for 26 years and serving as an adjunct professor in the Department of Textile Chemistry at NCSU from 1964 until 1995.

Martin has held a number of prestigious offices in both textile and executive management organizations. He was named a fellow of both the Society of Dyers and Colourists and the Textile Institute, an honor accorded to relatively few Americans. In 1992, he was elected president of the Council of Engineering and Scientific Society Executives (CESSE). He also served as president of the Research Triangle Park Owners and Tenants Association for 10 years. He was a member of the Research Triangle Foundation board of directors, a former president of the Triangle Area Research Directors Club, and past president of the West Raleigh Rotary Club.

After years of outstanding service, Martin retired from AATCC in 1996. It is with many thanks that the members and staff of AATCC recognize Mr. Martin’s accomplishments and support of the Association’s mission to promote education, encourage research, and establish communication through the naming of the walkway in his honor.

Martin holds an AB in chemistry and an MBA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and a BS in textile chemistry and dyeing from North Carolina State College. He currently lives in Cary, N.C. with his wife Betsy.
You can help fulfill the Association’s mission by leaving a legacy—your family or company name—etched in brick and proudly displayed as part of the walkway to the Sundial Plaza at the AATCC Technical Center. The walkway will be named in honor of William R. Martin, Jr., Executive Director of AATCC (1973-1996).

- Inscribe your name or company on a 4 x 8-in. brick paver for only U.S.$150.
- Personalize an 8 x 8-in. paver for U.S.$300.
- Contributions for inscribed brick pavers should be made to the AATCC Foundation, Inc. and may be tax deductible
- All proceeds will be used to enhance the charitable research, education, and scholarship mission of the Foundation
- Contact AATCC Director of Business Development Perry Grady at +1 919 414 9260 or gradyp@aatcc.org for more information

* Please remit payment to AATCC Foundation, Inc., PO Box 12215, Research Triangle Park, NC, 27709-2215

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