

Harold S. Freeman to receive THE OLNEY MEDAL



Harold S. Freeman is this year's recipient of The Olney Medal for achievement in textile chemistry. The Olney Medal was established in 1944 to recognize outstanding achievement in textile chemistry, polymer chemistry, or other fields of chemistry of major importance to textile science, including the development of chemical agents or chemical processes used in the manufacture of textiles or for methods used in their evaluation.

PERSONAL DATA

A native of Raleigh, N.C., Freeman obtained a BS in chemistry from North Carolina A&T University in 1973, an MS in organic chemistry from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 1978, and a PhD in organic chemistry from NCSU in 1981. He joined Burroughs-Wellcome Co. as an organic chemist in 1973. In 1982 he joined NCSU as an associate professor of textile chemistry. He continued there as a professor of textile chemistry and then as director of the polymer and textile chemistry program. He became the NCSU Ciba-Geigy professor

of dye chemistry in 1990, and the associate head and director of graduate programs for the department of textile engineering, chemistry, and science at NCSU in 1996. Additionally, he joined the editorial board of *Dyes and Pigments* in 1991, and became co-editor in 1998. In 2001, he also joined the editorial board of *Coloration Technology*.

Freeman and his wife, the former Ruby D. Williams, reside in Raleigh, N.C. They have two sons, Rodney and Jeramy. Freeman is a member of The Church on the Rock in Raleigh. He serves as a church elder and bible teacher and shares a monthly prison ministry with his wife, Ruby. In his spare time, he enjoys golf and saltwater fishing.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Freeman is the author, co-author, or co-editor of nearly 200 scientific publications, including 84 journal articles, 21 conference proceedings, 63 invited papers at national and international conferences, 12 book chapters, six books, and six patents. He joined AATCC in 1982, and is also a member of the American Chemical Society, the National Technical Association, the Society of Dyers and Colourists, Sigma Xi, Genotoxicity and Environmental Mutagenicity Society, the National Organization of Black Chemists and Engineers, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has served as chair of the AATCC Colour Index editorial committee since 1999. He was listed in *Who's Who* in the South and Southwest and in *American Men of Science*. He was named Ciba-Geigy Professor in 1990 and co-editor of *Dyes and Pigments* in 1998. He won AATCC's J. William Weaver Award in 1992.

For the past 20 years, Freeman has headed the only U.S.-based academic research laboratory dedicated to the design and synthesis of organic dyes for textile applications. During this period, he supervised the work of 10 masters degree and 16 doctoral degree recipients and 10 post-doctoral research associates. This work has been widely published and covers a broad scope of topics, including: the design and synthesis of lightfast disperse dyes, the environmental chemistry of synthetic dyes, purification methods for synthetic dyes, computer-aided dye design, synthesis of nongenotoxic organic pigments and their intermediates, enzyme-mediated dye synthesis and application, and iron complexed dyes. A key aspect of his work has been the design of new textile dyes based on environmental considerations, with emphasis on the development of potential replacements for mutagenic/carcinogenic aromatic amines used in azo dye synthesis and for metal-complexed dyes containing metals designated by the U.S. EPA as priority pollutants. A highlight of his recent studies in this area has been the use of computer-based molecular modeling methods to influence the direction and pace of the research.

THE OLNEY MEDAL

Established in 1944 in honor of Louis Atwell Olney, the founder and first president of AATCC, The Olney Medal recognizes outstanding achievement in textile or polymer chemistry or other fields of chemistry of major importance to textile science. The award consists of a gold medal, a scroll, and an honorarium.

Presentation of the medal each year is a highlight of AATCC's IC&E. This year the Association will present The Olney Medal at the conference awards banquet on Thursday, September 15, at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Greenville, S.C. Freeman will deliver the traditional Olney Medal Address on Wednesday, September 15, at 1:30 p.m. at the Palmetto Expo Center. His topic will be "Color Yes, Toxicity No: Systematic Approaches to Meeting This Challenge."

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