Hans H. Kuhn is this year’s recipient of The Olney Medal for achievement in textile chemistry. A native of Switzerland, Kuhn received his MS in chemical engineering in 1949 and PhD in organic chemistry in 1953 from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology under the direction of the Nobel Laureate Professor Leopold Ruzicka. At the same institute, he conducted post-doctoral research in the field of synthesis and reactions with styrene oxide until 1957 when he immigrated to the U.S. He joined the research department of the Dewey and Almy Chemical Co. in Cambridge, Mass., a division of W. R. Grace. In 1960, Kuhn joined the Milliken Research Corp. in Spartanburg, S.C. He held several positions with the company and was promoted in 1995 to Milliken Research Fellow.

**Professional Activities**

Kuhn is the inventor of a new class of polymeric dyes based on polyethoxylated aromatic amines. Later work involved the adsorption of hydrophilic polymers to the surface of fibers, particularly polyester, resulting in a change of the surface characteristics of polyester fabrics from hydrophobic to hydrophilic. Most recently he worked on the adsorption of conducting polymers to the surface of textiles resulting in electrically conductive textiles. He holds about 100 U.S. and foreign patents.

Kuhn has authored and coauthored several books and articles which have appeared in such publications as Chimia, Kunststoffe-Plastics, Melland Textilberichte, Textile Research Journal, and American Dyestuff Reporter. He has also been a speaker at many conferences and symposia.

**Honors and Awards**

From 1970-1995, Kuhn served as Honorary Consul of Switzerland for the cities of Spartanburg, Greenville, and Columbia, S.C.; and Charlotte and Asheville, N.C. He has also been honored as Palmetto Gentleman by Governor John C. West in 1973 and Knight of the Queen City of Charlotte by John M. Belk, Mayor, in 1977.

**Personal Data**

Kuhn and his wife, the former Edith L. Peyer, reside in Spartanburg, S.C. They have two children—John H. Kuhn, a product manager in software development with Princeton Financial Services in Princeton, N.J.; and Barbara Miller, a homemaker in Ghana, West Africa. They also have five grandchildren.

Kuhn is a member of the Rotary International, American Chemical Society, Swiss Chemical Society, and Swiss Chemical Association. His hobbies include collecting stamps, coins, and antiques.

**The Olney Medal**

Established in 1944 in honor of Dr. 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 conferences. This year the Association will present The Olney Medal at the conference Awards Luncheon on Monday, September 29 at the Marriott Marquis in Atlanta, Ga. Kuhn will deliver the traditional Olney Medal Address at the Marriott. His topic will be Adsorption at the Liquid/Solid Interface: Conductive Textiles Based on the Polypyrrole.

**Previous Recipients**

Hans H. Kuhn is the fifty-fourth recipient of The Olney Medal. The first medal was presented to Dr. Olney in 1944. Since then, the Association has awarded the Medal to:

1960: Arnold M. Sookne of Harris Research Corporation
1961: Fred Fortess of Gelnas Incorporated
1962: Charles F. Goldthwait of North Carolina State College
1963: Giuliana G. Tesoro of J. P. Stevens & Company
1964: Richard O. Steele of Rohm and Haas Co.
1965: Herman F. Mark of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn
1966: Wilson A. Reeves of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
1968: Harold P. Lundgren of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
1969: D. Donald Gagliardi of Cegliard Co. Research Corp.
1971: Ernest R. Kaswell of Fabric Research Laboratories
1972: Victor S. Salvin of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro
1973: Herman B. Goldstein of Sun Chemical Corp.
1974: Henry A. Rutherford of North Carolina State University
1975: R. Lee Wayland Jr. of Dan River Inc.
1976: George L. Drake Jr. of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
1977: James M. Straley of Tennessee Eastman Co.
1978: Dmitry M. Gagarine of Milliken Research Corp.
1979: Joseph W. Gibson Jr. of the DuPont Co.
1983: Theodore F. Cooke of Textile Research Institute
1984: Ralph McGregor of North Carolina State University
1985: Stanley P. Rowland of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
1986: Melvin D. Hurwitz of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro
1987: Ludwig Rebenfeld of Textile Research Institute
1988: Martin K. Lindemann, Consultant
1990: Hans-Dietrich H. Weigmann of Textile Research Institute
1991: Robert J. Harper Jr. of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
1992: Bethlehem K. Andrews of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
1993: Herbert T. Pratt of the DuPont Co.
1994: J. Nolan Etters of the University of Georgia
1995: Vivian T. Stannett of North Carolina State University
1996: Wayne C. Tincher of Georgia Institute of Technology

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