Wayne C. Tincher to Receive The Olney Medal

Wayne C. Tincher, professor of textile & fiber engineering at Georgia Institute of Technology, is this year's recipient of The Olney Medal for achievement in textile chemistry.

Tincher, a native of Frankfort, Ky., went to college at David Lipscomb University with the intent of studying to become a high school chemistry teacher. Upon discovering he did not like education courses, he went on to major in chemistry and math, graduating Magna cum Laude in 1956. He completed a PhD in chemistry at Vanderbilt University in 1960. A teaching assistant while in graduate school, Tincher found he really liked teaching and would like to do so at the college level. After graduate school, he worked at Monsanto's fiber research center in Research Triangle Park, N.C., as a research chemist and later a research leader, because he felt that a college professor would benefit from some industrial experience. It was at this time that he developed an interest in polymer science and textile chemistry.

In 1971, Tincher began his career in academics at Georgia Tech as an associate professor in the school of textile & fiber engineering, achieving the position of professor in 1975. From 1979 to 1982 he was also acting director of the program. From 1986 to 1991 he was the research director for the apparel manufacturing technology center, and he is currently Georgia Tech's research director for the National Textile Center program.

Professional Activities

Tincher has been active in the Association since he joined in 1971. He has served on the Executive Committee on Research from 1994 to the present, was the program chairman for the 1986 IC&E, and was moderator for the New Technologies technical session for the 1995 IC&E. He has also served on numerous technical and council committees.


Tincher’s technical contributions cover a broad spectrum of topics including—pioneering work in application of nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy for elucidation of the structure of fiber forming polymers; work in flammability of textile materials; work in the early development and application of near infrared reflectance spectroscopy to textile and fiber analysis; work leading to the development of reconstituted fibers and reuse of dyebaths as an approach to source reduction of pollutants from textile processing; polymer thermal and UV degradation; carpet manufacturing technology; textile manufacturing processes; and his current focus of research—development of ink-jet printing systems for textiles.

Tincher is a member of the American Chemical Society, the Society of Sigma Xi, the Fiber Society, the National Council on Textile Education, and the Society for Imaging Science and Technology.

Honors and Awards

Tincher has received several honors and awards—he was selected to serve on the Defense Logistics Agency Clothing and Textile Board to prepare recommendations on procurement for the Secretary of Defense in 1990; he received the 1990 Georgia Tech Faculty Research Award for Outstanding Achievement in Research Program Development; he was a rayon and acetate council university lecture tour speaker in 1985 and 1986; and he received the J. W. Weaver Award (for the best paper of the year published in Textile Chemist and Colorist) from AATCC in 1981.

Personal Data

Tincher and his wife, the former Mary Faye Kinzer, reside in Atlanta, Ga. They have three children—Mary Lucinda Wren, an elementary school teacher in Canton, Ga.; Lori Lynn Warren, a pediatric nurse in Lawrenceville, Ga.; and Wesley Coleman Tincher, a plant engineer in Calhoun, Ga.

Tincher has a variety of hobbies including computer simulations of historical battles and reading. He is involved in several civic activities including the Decatur Church of Christ; resource person for Dekalb County Schools; several scholarship committees; and has been an invited lecturer for the Boy Scouts, the Governor's honors program for gifted high school students, and the Georgia Textile Manufacturers Association high school and junior college science teachers programs.

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 16, at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tenn. Tincher will deliver
the traditional Olney Medal Address in room Jefferson A. His topic will be Textile Chemistry—2021.

Previous Recipients

Tincher 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:

1945: Milton Harris of Milton Harris Associates
1947: Edward R. Schwarm of Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1948: Harold M. Chase of Dan River Mills
1949: Charles A. Seibert of DuPont Co.
1950: George L. Royer of American Cyanamid Co.
1951: Raymond W. Jacoby of Ciba Co.
1952: Werner von Bergen of Forstmann Woolen Co.
1953: Roland E. Derby Sr. of The Derby Co.
1954: William D. Appel of the National Bureau of Standards
1955: Miles A. Dahlen of DuPont Co.
1956: Walter J. Hamburger of Fabric Research Laboratories
1957: P. J. Wood of Royce Chemical Co.
1959: Emery I. Valko of Lowell Technological Institute
1960: Arnold M. Sookne of Harris Research Laboratories
1961: Fred Fortess of Celanese Corp. of America
1962: Charles F. Goldthwait of North Carolina State College
1963: Guiliana C. Tesoro of J.P. Stevens & Co.
1964: Richard O. Steele of Rohm and Haas Co.
1965: Herman F. Mark of 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 Gagliardi Research Corp.
1970: Paul L. Meunier of DuPont Co.
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 DuPont Co.
1980: Roland E. Derby Jr. of The Derby 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 DuPont Co.
1994: J. Nolan Etters of the University of Georgia
1995: Vivian T. Stannett of North Carolina State University

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