Tyrone L. Vigo to Receive The Olney Medal

Tyrone L. Vigo 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.

A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Vigo received a BS in chemistry in 1960 from Loyola University, and an MS in 1963 and a PhD in 1969, both in organic chemistry from Tulane University. In 1963, he joined the Southern Regional Research Center (SRRC) of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) as a research chemist. He became the director of the USDA Textiles and Clothing Lab in Knoxville, Tennessee in 1976, and is currently a lead scientist at the USDA's SRRC in New Orleans. He has been adjunct professor at Tulane University and the University of Tennessee, and is currently an adjunct professor for the Department of Textiles at the University of Georgia.

Vigo has published over 225 research and technical publications and patents. He has presented more than 130 papers, co-authored four books on various topics, and authored two books on textile chemistry. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and the Fiber Society.

AATCC Activities
Vigo joined AATCC in 1965. He has served as chair for the Gulf Coast Section and has served as a committee member on AATCC Committee RA45. He has made five presentations at AATCC’s International Conference & Exhibition (IC&E) and two at the regional level. He has co-authored two winning Intersections Paper Competition papers that were presented at the IC&E in 1983 and 1999.

Other Activities
Vigo has served as chair of the Cellulose, Paper, and Textile Division and the Macromolecular Secretariat of the American Chemical Society (ACS). He has also served on the ACS Executive Committee, Cellulose Division, as treasurer of ACS’ Macromolecular Secretariat, and secretary-treasurer of their Materials Chemistry Secretariat. He has also served on the Governing Council and Awards Committee of the Fiber Society.

Personal Data
Vigo and his wife, Mary Eileen Castel Vigo, reside in New Orleans, Louisiana. They have two sons. Stephen B. Vigo, 32, is a computer scientist/biologist in Bloomington, Indiana. Craig B. Vigo, 27, is a chemist/biologist in Metairie, Louisiana. Vigo’s hobbies include square dancing, travel, hiking, and global investing.

Honors and Awards
Vigo has received the Popular Science Grand Award for New Materials in 1988. He was invited to give presentations at the Gordon Conference on Fiber Science in 1989 and 1999. He received the USDA's Agricultural Research Service (ARS) National Award for Technology Transfer in 1990, and the Federal Lab Award for Excellence in Technology Transfer in 1991. Vigo received additional USDA ARS South Regional Research Center awards for Best Paper, and Scientist of the Year, in 1997. He also received the Division Fellow Award from the Cellulose Division of the American Chemical Society in 1998.

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’s IC&E. This year the Association will present The Olney Medal at the conference Awards Banquet on Tuesday, September 19, 2000, at the Grand Pavilion in the Adam’s Mark Hotel in Winston-Salem, N.C. Vigo will deliver the traditional Olney Medal Address during the History Session on Tuesday, September 19. His topic will be “Textile Renaissance.”

Previous Recipients
Vigo is the 57th recipient of The Olney Medal. The first medal was presented to Dr. Olney in 1944. Since then, the Association has awarded the Medal to:
AATCC's 2000 International Conference & Exhibition

1945: Milton Harris of Milton Harris Associates
1947: Edward R. Schwarz of Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1948: Harold M. Chase of Dan River Mills
1949: Charles A. Seibert of the 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 the 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 Fortress of Celanese Corp. of America
1962: Charles F. Goldthwait of North Carolina State College
1963: Giuliana C. Tesoro of J. P. Stevens & Co.
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 Gagliardi 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. Staley 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
1997: Hans H. Kuhn of Milliken Research Corp.
1998: Joseph C. Shivers of DuPont
1999: Warren S. Perkins of the University of Georgia

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