Hans-Dietrich Weigmann To Receive The Olney Medal

Established in 1944 in honor of Dr. Louis Atwell Olney, the founder and first president of AATCC, The Olney Medal is presented in recognition of outstanding achievement in textile or polymer chemistry or other fields of chemistry of major importance to textile science.

Presentation of the medal each year is a highlight of AATCC conferences. This year’s presentation will be made at the conference awards luncheon on Monday, October 1. Immediately following the luncheon, Weigmann will deliver the traditional Olney Medal Address. His topic will be Analysis of Finish Distribution on Textile Substrates.

Previous Recipients

Weigmann is the forty-seventh recipient of The Olney Medal. The first award was to Dr. Olney in 1944. Since then it has been awarded to:

1945—Milton Harris, Milton Harris Associates
1947—Edward A. Schwarz, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1948—Harold M. Chase, Dan River Mills
1949—Charles A. Seibert, The Du Pont Co
1950—George L. Rovery, American Cyanamid Co.
1951—Raymond W. Jacoby, Ciba Co.
1952—Werner von Bergen, Forstmann Woolen Co.
1953—Eroland E. Derby Sr., The Derby Co.
1955—Ailes A. Dahlen, The Du Pont Co.
1956—Walter J. Hamburger, Fabric Research Laboratories
1957—P.J. Wood, Royce Chemical Co.
1958—Henry E. Millson, American Cyanamid Co.
1959—Emery I. Valko, Lowell Technological Institute
1960—Arnold M. Sookne, Harris Research Laboratories
1961—Fred Festus, Celanese Corporation of America
1962—Charles F. Goldthwait, North Carolina State University
1964—Richard O. Steele, Rohm and Haas Co.
1965—Herman F. Mark, Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn
1966—Wilson A. Reeves, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1967—Edwin I. Stearns, American Cyanamid Co.
1968—Harold P. Gundren, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1969—D. Donald Gaggiardi, Gaggiardi Research Corp.
1971—Ernest R. Kaswell, Fabric Research Laboratories
1972—Vicor S. Salvin, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
1973—Herem B. Goldstein, Sun Chemical Corp.
1974—Henry A. Rutherford, North Carolina State University
1975—R. Lee Wayland Jr., Dan River Inc.
1976—George L. Drake Jr., U.S. Department of Agriculture
1977—James M. Strea, Tennessee Eastman Co.
1978—Dmitry M. Gagarine, Milliken Research Corp.
1979—Raymond W. Jacoby, Forstmann Woolen Co.
1980—Roland E. Derby Jr., The Derby Co.
1983—Fred Fortess, Celanese Corporation of America
1984—Joseph W. Gibson Jr., The Du Pont Co.
1986—John L. Hasty, Imperial Chemical Industries
1987—D. Donald Gaggiardi, Gaggiardi Research Corp.
1988—J. A. Thomas, Gattefosse
1989—Joseph M. Mulvihill, National Bureau of Standards
1990—Hans-Dietrich Weigmann, Textile Research Institute

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polypropylene fibers and lectured on fiber structure, color and spectroscopy, and crease resistant finishing.

Meyer was with Burlington Industries' research center at Greensboro in 1967-68 where he worked on soil release and flame retardant finishes and on shrink-resist and vapor phase finishing. He returned to Switzerland in 1968 as head of textile technology and the chemistry lab for the Stoffel Division of Burlington at Neistal. He was head of research and development there when he left in 1972 to become assistant to Professor Zollinger and group leader for research in textile chemistry at ETH. While working with Zollinger, Meyer spent a year (1981-82) as research fellow at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. Since 1978 he has worked with Professor P. Rys at ETH, teaching dyeing and textile chemistry at both graduate and postgraduate levels.

Research Areas

Meyer's research at ETH has included various aspects of dyeing, printing and finishing of both natural and synthetic fibers. His projects have focused on soil release finishes, crosslinking cellulose, highly active crosslinking catalysts, shrink resistant finishing of wool, optimization of properties in preparation and finishing, variation of liquor pickup and drying processes, staining techniques for resin finishes on cotton and wool, staining mechanism of Rhodamine B on cellulose, investigation of covalent bonds between dyes and wool, reactive dyeing of silk, cationic dyes on polycyrlonitrile, microbial degradation of optical brighteners and azo dyes, reactive dyeing of cellulose, printing cotton fabrics with reactive dyes and scale up problems in adapting laboratory formulae and processes to production.

The results of much of Meyer's work have been published in the technical press. He has been the principal author or coauthor of some 32 papers published in TCC, TEXTILVEREDUNGL, TEXTILE RESEARCH JOURNAL, THE JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF DYERS AND COLOURISTS and others.

A member of the Swiss Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists, Meyer was awarded its Conrad Prize in 1987 in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of textile chemistry. He has served the association as a delegate to meetings of the International Federation of Associations of Textile Chemists and Colorists, and was chairman of the scientific committee for IFATCC's 15th International Congress which met in Lucerne in June. He is a member of the Environmental Protection Committee and has been a member of various technical committees of the Swiss Textile Industry.

Meyer is the father of two sons: Martin, 24, a student in chemistry, and Thomas, 21, a student in physics. His hobbies include music, skiing and mountain climbing.

The Millson Award

The Millson Award for Invention was established in 1979 to recognize outstanding contributions to textile wet processing technology. The award is named for Henry E. Millson, retired head of dyes research for American Cyanamid Co. who also is a noted inventor and was the 1958 recipient of AATCC's Olney Medal for outstanding achievement in textile chemistry. Previous recipients of the award have been:

1980—Samuel Smith of Minnesota Mining & Manufacturing Co. for his development of the first commercially successful oil and water repellent fluorochemical textile finishes.
1982—George M. Bryant and Andrew T. Walter of Union Carbide Corp. for the development of the Foam Finishing Technology low energy process for finishing.
1983—Valentin Appenzeller, inventor of the swimming roll concept for overcoming deflections of opposeing rolls in padders.
1984—Victor F. Fahringer, inventor of the jet dyeing machine.
1985—Herman B. Goldstein of HBG Export Corp. for his development of a low cost process for manufacturing dimethyl dihydroxy ethylene urea (DMDHEU) and his discovery that DMDHEU was ideally suited for use as a cellulose crosslinker.
1986—Andrew G. Pierce Jr. and John G. Frick Jr. of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Southern Regional Research Center for their development of magnesium chloride-hydroxy acid mixed catalyst systems for durable press finishing.
1987—Dietrich R. Hildebrand of Bayer AG for his work on the fundamentals and techniques of reactive dyeing.
1988—Hugh R. Davidson and Henry Hemmendinger, developers of the first successful color matching computer system.

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1985—Stanley P. Roland, U.S. Department of Agriculture
1986—Melvin D. Hurwitz, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
1987—Ludwig Rebenfeld, Textile Research Institute
1988—Martin K. Lindemann, Consultant