

AATCC Elections

It's time to choose the 2023-2024 leadership for your Association! Ballots for AATCC President Elect and Regional Board Members will be sent out shortly. Ballots are due **Friday, November 4**. Results will be announced at the AATCC Annual Meeting to be held on **November 15**, during the Fall Research Committee Meetings. For more information, contact Debra Hibbard (hibbard@aatcc.org).

AATCC President-Elect

Andrew Fraser is director of Global Quality Control with LKH Sourcing. Fraser started his career as a spinning/twisting supervisor at Burlington Industries in the Menswear Division. He was a piece goods coordinator for Capital Mercury Shirt Corp.; manager of Color & Physical Testing Laboratories at Victoria's Secret; director of Fabric & Color at Walmart Stores Inc.; owner & CEO of Fraser Technical Services Consulting; and director of Color & Technical Services at Chico's FAS.



Fraser received a BS in Textile Science from North Carolina State University (NCSU) in 1986. He has been a member of AATCC since 1992. Currently, he is the chair of the AATCC Ozarks Section. He also chairs the Education Advisory Board and the Education Awards Committee. He is secretary of the Color Measurement Test Method Committee and is active in the International Test Methods Committee, the Executive Committee on Research (ECR), the Technical Committee on Research (TCR), Membership Committee, and AATCC Board of Directors.

AATCC Regional Board Members

Central Atlantic

Patrick Ayers is director, Quality Assurance & Process Engineering at Noble Biomaterials Inc. He received a BS in Textile and Polymer Chemistry from NCSU in 1995, attended Leeds University in the United Kingdom in 1993-1994, and



received an MBA in Management Information Systems from Gardner-Webb University in 2000. For over 25 years, he has held technical, quality assurance, and global management roles in fiber recycling and extrusion, fabric, apparel, and textile services companies.

A member of AATCC since 1992, he joined while a student at NCSU. His Association involvement includes participation in the Colorfastness to Atmospheric Contaminant Test Methods Committee, Membership Committee, Committee on Conferences, Technical Committee on Research, and as a NY-Metro Section Officer. He is also a member of ASTM D13, F23, and E12.

Ayers has great interest in serving the Central Atlantic Region—an area filled with diverse textile and apparel brands, retailers, and suppliers. He wishes to engage in industry outreach, increase membership, and better assist existing members and chapters in the area. Ayers currently is completing his first two-year term as regional board member of the Central Atlantic Region.

MidSouth

A 1967 graduate of the NCSU College of Textiles with a BS in Textile Chemistry, **Nelson E. Houser** has served in various technical and management positions with dyestuff and chemical suppliers and wet processors. Previous positions include technical service with



Archroma; vice-president of Technical Service for M. Dohmen USA; vice-president Technical Marketing for Burlington Chemical Co. LLC; technical director with the Textile Products Division of Ciba-Geigy Corp.; and technical manager with American Color and Chemical. Manufacturing experiences include management

and technical positions with M. Lowenstein, Burlington Industries, and Beaunit Corp. After 53 years in the textile industry, Houser retired in June 2019. Houser has also worked with technology transfer programs at the NCSU Wilson College of Textiles.

Houser has been an active member of AATCC for more than 40 years. He served as President of the Association from 1997 through 1998. He chaired numerous committees, including the Education Advisory, Publications, and Colorfastness to Perspiration Test Method Committees, and is presently serving on several technical and administrative committees. In 2003, Houser was awarded the AATCC Harold C. Chapin Award for distinguished service to the Association, and in 2015, received the AATCC Education Award. Additional recognitions include the 2000 Textile Leader of the Year by the Kappa Tau Beta Leadership Fraternity and Phi Psi Professional Textile Fraternity at the NCSU College of Textiles, and the 2001 Textile World Annual Top 10 for service and dedication to the textile industry.

A frequent speaker on textile wet processing, Houser has made numerous presentations at AATCC workshops and symposiums, NCSU programs, Clemson University programs, and various trade association programs. Currently, Houser is completing his first two-year term as MidSouth Regional Board Member.

New England

Bethany Pollack joined Draper Knitting in March 2019. She received a degree in Textiles Marketing from the University of Rhode Island in 1997. Since then, Pollack has worked in various aspects of the textile industry, including retail management, sales, marketing, and product development. She joined Draper as safety products manager, where she is able to fulfill her passion for the development of technical textiles to meet strict requirements. She joined AATCC in 2011. She has been a member of the Electronically Integrated Textiles Committee since 2016 and was secretary from 2016-2017. She also serves as an officer of the New England Section.



Southern

Ashley Handley is currently a senior technical services specialist in the RCP Division at Underwriters Laboratories (now UL Solutions). In 2005, she received a BS in Human Environmental Sciences from the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, focusing on apparel studies/fashion merchandising/textile science. Immediately after graduation, she began her career as a textile specialist in the Accessories and Home Division at Consumer Testing Laboratories. She progressed to textile engineer in Regulatory Compliance And Technical Support before moving into her current position at UL Solutions.



Handley has been a member of AATCC since 2017 and currently serves as the Southern Regional Board Member, as well as on the Committee on Conferences, Technical Committee on Research, Membership Committee, Rising Professionals Interest Group, Water Resistance, Absorbency & Wetting Agent Evaluation Test Method Committee, Appearance Retention Test Methods Committee, Stain Resistance Test Methods Committee, and Colorfastness to Water Test Methods Committee. Locally, she is treasurer of the AATCC Ozarks Section. Currently, Handley is completing her first term as Southern Regional Board Member.

Southeast Asia

Ashis Kr. Samanta is a professor and former head of the Department of Jute and Fibre Technology, Institute of Jute Technology (IJT), University of Calcutta. He is also chair of BIS TXD-07 Committee for Specialty Textile Chemicals and Dyestuff, and chair and Board of Expert/Board of Studies, Bachelor of Fashion and Apparel Design (BFAD) Course, University of Calcutta. He is a member of Board of Studies, Bachelor of Fashion Technology Course of Amity University, Kolkata.



Samanta has served as professor in-charge (academic) at the Institute of Jute Technology (IJT) from August 2009 through July 2011, and member, Governing Council of IJT for three terms. He served as a former member of Research Advisory

Committee (RAC) of ICAR-NIRJAFT, Govt. of India, Kolkata, from 2010 through 2012. He was a member of the Board of Studies for B Des. Course, Viswabharati, Santiniketan, from 2011 through 2013. Samanta was a former member and former convener of the PhD Committee in Textile Technology, Calcutta University. He was also a former assistant director in Mantra, Surat, from 1997 to 1998.

Samanta served in the Textile Engineering Division of WBSC of IE(I) for the last 20 years in different capacities. He also acted as an advisor/expert member in NBA and Public Service Commission of West Bengal and Orissa, Staff Selection Commission for the government of India.

As an active member of BIS and ISO-TC-38 Committee, he attended the last three plenary meeting of ISO-TC-38 on behalf of BIS, and presented new draft NWIP Standards on testing and identification of few natural dyes from such dyed textiles under WG-31.

Samanta is a referee of many international journals, and editorial board member for three international journals. He has published ten book chapters and also edited and published two international books—one on *Chemistry and Technology of Natural and Synthetic Dyes and Pigments* in 2020 and one on *Colorimetry* (in production) in 2022. Samanta currently is completing his first two-year term as Southeast Asia Regional Board Member.



West

Karen Muhlin is currently the director of Lab Services for The North Face, a division of VF Outdoor. She has been a member of AATCC since 2000.

Muhlin received a BS in Textile Sciences from the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth

in 2001. After graduating, she worked for Specialized Technology Resources (STR) as a project coordinator and Softlines Laboratory

supervisor. Muhlin joined The North Face in 2004 as a lab coordinator and has held successive roles within the laboratory function, supporting The North Face, the VF Global Innovation Center, as well as sister VF brands.

A career centered around the physical and performance testing of textiles has made AATCC an integral part of Muhlin's professional life. Currently, Muhlin serves on several AAATCC research committees, including Water Resistance, Absorbency, and Wetting Agent Evaluation, Electronically Integrated Textiles, and Evaluation of Materials & Products for End Use Performance, which she also chaired from 2016-2018. She also served as member of ECR from 2017-2019.

Locally, Muhlin worked with fellow textile enthusiasts to resurrect the Pacific Coast Section (that was inactive for nearly a decade) into the AATCC California Section. She served as the Founding Section Chair from 2016-2019 as well as Lab Testing Pillar Chair from 2016-2018.

Muhlin's passion for textile testing is only matched by her desire to help build AATCC communities that encourage networking, education, and exploration of material sciences. As the West Region board member, Muhlin would advocate for the local sections and work to highlight areas of opportunity, such as sustainability, that resonate with textile professionals. Currently, Muhlin is completing her first two-year term as West Regional Board Member.

AATCC Interest Group Board Members

Chemical Applications Chair

Sabyasachi Gaan received his PhD in chemistry from University of California, Davis in 2007. He has been working at EMPA in Switzerland since 2007 and is currently head of the Additives and Chemistry group in the Advanced Fibers department. His group



specializes in the development of additives for bulk polymers, coatings on metals and polymers, and recycling of polymers. His group has developed several phosphorus flame retardants that are in various stages of commercialization. He has published more than 100 scientific articles and holds eight patents. Gaan's group was awarded the EMPA Innovation Prize in 2016 for the successful transfer of technology to industry. The innovation was the synthesis of a new, halogen-free flame retardant EDA-DOPO and its use in polyurethane foams. He has been a member of AATCC since 2016, and currently serves on the *AATCC Journal of Research* as an Associate Editor and the C7 Publications Subcommittee for the Journal.

Chemical Applications

At-Large Members



Dennis Scheer is a Managing General Partner for SST Technology Solutions Inc. He holds a bachelor's degree in Chemistry from the University of Richmond and an Honorary Doctorate in Textile Chemistry from NCSU. Currently, he is under contract with three technology marketing companies and one manufacturer.

Scheer is a product and process serial innovator who discovers and brings forth disruptive items to market. Over the years, he has accomplished this with three international textile companies (Klopman Mills, Burlington Industries, and Cone Mills), four international apparel corporations (Levi Strauss & Co., Wrangler, Ralph Lauren, and, just recently, VF Corp.'s Global Innovation Center in the Jeanswear and Workwear business), three international biotech chemical groups (Dyadic Group International, AARL, and CPN International), one non-woven manufacturer (Polymer Group Inc.) and private consulting (SST Technology Solutions, Inc.) in consumer durable and non-durable goods.

According to Scheer, "I am an effective manager with a diverse background in applications

product development, project management, strategic planning, problem solving, and customer service. I thrive in an environment of change and consider myself a leader who has a proven track record of success with many different kinds of challenges. My goal is creating a vision, developing a planned strategy, and challenging and motivating people to implement the plan."

Morgan Bakhshae is an R&D senior development chemist at Tencate Protective Fabrics. She has extensive experience in the field of textile chemistry and fiber polymers. Her time in product development ranges from materials construction through dyeing and finishing developments in support of Marketing, Sales, and Product Innovation.



Bakhshae received an MS in Textile and Polymer Chemistry and Fiber Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology in 2002. She has been a member of AATCC since 2008 and has been a regular attendee at conferences and committee meetings. She is a member of the AATCC Water Resistance Test Method Committee and has also been a judge for the Herman and Myrtle Goldstein Student Paper Competition.

Chemical Applications

Secretary

Brian Alloway is currently a formulations chemist with Azelis, a specialty chemical distributor selling into the construction, adhesives, sealants, and elastomers markets. As a staff member in their applications lab, he specializes in technical support, particularly in coatings. They also have knowledge and testing capabilities in the textile market and are looking to expand in the near future.



Alloway is a 2018 graduate of the NCSU Wilson College of Textiles with a BS in Polymer and

Color Chemistry. He has worked in the polymer and fiber industry with Nan Ya Plastics Corp. in production management and process quality auditing/analysis in polyester manufacturing. He joined AATCC in 2021 and is a member of the AATCC Chemical Applications Interest Group.



Concept 2 Consumer Chair

Tom Stutts is a senior sales representative for Color Solutions International, is completing his first two-year term as chair of the AATCC Concept 2 Consumer Interest Group. He started his career at Armtex as a lab manager, where his primary responsibility

was working with designers developing seasonal palettes and scaling lab recipes for production. He joined Datacolor in 1985 and held various positions in technical support, product management, and sales. His focus since 2003 has been consulting with retailers on best practices for color evaluation, implementing digital color workflows, and shifting their supply chain to self-approving lab and production color. He notes, “with over 30 years of providing color management solutions to the apparel and footwear industry, reducing time and cost in color development cycles has been my goal.”

Stutts is a graduate of NCSU with a Textile Chemistry degree and Montreat University with an MBA. He joined AATCC in 1979 as a student member and 1985 as a professional member. He is a member of the AATCC Color Measurement Test Method Committee and serves on several AATCC administrative committees.



Concept 2 Consumer At-Large Member

Tammie Rollins, senior manager in Regulatory Compliance and Technical Support for UL Solutions, is completing her first two-year term as AATCC Concept 2 Consumer At-Large Member. She has more than 25 years of experience in

textiles with an extensive background in flammability regulations related to textiles and the testing of hosiery and accessories. She has a textile degree from the University of Arkansas and serves on the Apparel Studies advisory board.

Rollins joined AATCC in 2010 and is involved with several AATCC committees as well as the AATCC Textile Discovery Summits. She participates in the AAFA Legwear group, as well as ASTM, CGSB, and CPSC.

AATCC Materials Chair

Christina Rapa is completing her first two-year term as Materials Interest Group chair. She is a textile engineer at W.L. Gore & Associates and is currently researching and developing new and innovative textiles for Sitka Gear, the hunting apparel brand at Gore.



Rapa has been a member of AATCC since 2001. She received the AATCC Student Chapter award at Philadelphia University in 2001, then earned an MS in Textile Engineering from NCSU.

She helped the Northwest Section of AATCC start up in the early 2000s and held the position of their Events Chair. After relocating to the US East Coast, she became involved in the Delaware Valley Section, where she currently holds the position of Section Chair and has helped bring in-person events back to the region.

Rapa has worked for several apparel brands over the years and AATCC has always been an integral part of her career, from the International Conferences (now called the Textile Discovery Summit) to conferences on antimicrobial finishes and now, the many virtual webinars available to continue learning and increasing her knowledge of textiles and testing. She has also been involved in the Materials Interest Group for several years and helped bring interesting topics and speakers to the AATCC member audience. “I’m always looking for leads—so, if you have a topic you want covered, reach out and I’ll set it up.”



Materials At-Large Member

Apurba Banerjee is completing her first two-year term as Materials Interest Group At-Large Member. She is the principal textiles engineer at Milwaukee Electric Tool Corp. and leads their textile-

related safety initiative with personal protective gear. Utilizing her background in functional fabrics and protective textiles, she collaborates with several cross functional teams to develop protective products that save lives and reduce work fatigue in a variety of fields such as construction, plumbing, remolding, etc. She has a passion for sustainability in material selection and product longevity and plans to develop products in the protective textiles field. In the past, she worked on thermoregulation products at brrr^o Inc.

Banerjee is a 2017 graduate of the PhD program of Polymer, Fiber, and Textile Science from the University of Georgia (UGA) and a 2016 graduate of the master's program of Apparel and Merchandising at Colorado State University. While at UGA, she researched biodegradable plastics (Polyhydroxyalkanoates) that are derived from marine algae and their application in the biomedical field.

Banerjee joined AATCC in 2012. She was president of the UGA Student Chapter, received the 2018 AATCC Future Leaders Award, and served as co-chair for the Young Professionals Committee.

Banerjee is completing her first two-year term as the At-Large Member of the AATCC Materials Interest Group. As an At-Large Member, she participates on the AATCC Board of Directors. She also serves as vice-chair of the AATCC Technical Committee on Research (TCR) and is a member of several AATCC Test Method committees.

Rising Professionals Chair

Jessica Brooks has been in the textile industry since 2010 and has held several roles in domestic textile mills. Most recently she took on the colorist position for the brands under W.L. Gore. Brooks has been an active member of AATCC for nine years. She is an enthusiastic supporter of AATCC events and recruitment in the Delaware Valley Chapter. Her experience with AATCC includes running textile labs (physical testing, dye laboratories) and attending various yearly AATCC events such as the International Conference/Textile Discovery Summit and Section meetings. She is interested in becoming more involved in decisions involving AATCC, especially now with the Rising Professionals Interest group.



Rising Professionals At-Large Member

Sarah Plautz is currently the vice-chair of the AATCC Delaware Valley (DV) Section and has been active in the section since 2017. She graduated from NCSU in 2011 with a BS degree in Textile Technology, Medical Textiles concentration. She has been working at W.L. Gore & Associates for the last nine years, where she has experienced close collaboration with textile mills and manufacturing, textile testing, textile development, and college recruiting.



While the acting Delaware Valley section chair, Plautz adapted to the virtual setting by creating multiple online events to continue to bring the section together. This included block printing demonstrations and a virtual lab tour series that has been attended by over 70 AATCC members across the nation. She is a strong advocate for rising professionals in the textile industry and hopes to get more rising professionals interested in textiles through the Rising Professional Interest Group. Plautz has been a member of AATCC since 2018 and is a member of the Membership Committee.



Rising Professionals At-Large Member

R. Bryan Ormond is an assistant professor of Textile Engineering, Chemistry, and Science/Textile Protection and Comfort Center in the NCSU Wilson College of Textiles. He received a BS in Polymer and Color Chemistry (ACS Certified)

in 2007 and a PhD in Fiber and Polymer Science from NCSU in 2012.

Ormond is currently the faculty advisor for the NCSU AATCC Student Chapter. He has 16 peer-reviewed published works, over 25 news/media interviews and authored trade publications, over 100 contributed research presentations, and holds one patent. At NCSU, Ormond was recognized as a recipient of the 2018 Alumni Association Outstanding Extension Service Award, the 2021 Alumni Association Outstanding Teacher Award, and been inducted into both the Academy of Outstanding Faculty Engaged in Extension and the Academy of Outstanding Teachers. He has advised and mentored 18 PhD, 25 MS, and over 30 undergraduate students engaged in research. In addition to AATCC, he is an active member of multiple standards development organizations, including ASTM (Chemical Hazards subcommittee chair), NFPA (voting member of the Hazardous Materials PPE committee), and ISO.

Ormond was an AATCC student member and was recognized as the AATCC Outstanding College Graduate of the Year in 2007. He was a recipient of the 2020 AATCC Future Leaders Award. He joined AATCC as a senior member in 2019, and has presented and attended numerous International Conferences/Textile Discovery Summits. He serves as an Associate Editor for the *AATCC Journal of Research*. He currently is a member of several test method committees, as well as the Henry E. Millson Award for Invention Committee, and is serving as the Interim At-Large Member for the Rising Professionals Interest Group.