Crocker and Stanford to Receive Millson Award

AATCC recognizes John Crocker and Rick Stanford as the 2021 recipients of the Henry E. Millson Award for Invention. The Millson Award recognizes inventions that are outstanding contributions to textile technology. Crocker and Stanford developed a standardized washing machine, built in the USA, for testing textiles to multiple AATCC standards. Prior to this invention, testing labs used domestic washers. This usage caused procedural difficulty and inconsistencies, as models would have different operating parameters and testing labs using different models would try to run the same standard test, with varying results. Crocker's and Stanford's standardized washing machine not only precisely meets AATCC standards, but also allows custom programming and can run a wash cycle for up to 80 hours, saving water and detergent for special retailer tests that call for more washings.

The standardized washing machine is made with industrial grade components, so it can meet the operating requirements of a lab that runs tests all day, every day. This eliminates the additional waste of replacing home washers on such a regular basis. Finally, the standardized washer allows AATCC standards committees to maintain consistent operating parameters; this means no more worry over the market confusion caused by the numerous models of domestic washers.

Accomplishments

John Crocker joined AATCC in 2010. He has spent over 25 years in the textile quality control industry, with experience in manufacturing, testing, technical sales, and standards development. As SDL Atlas’ Business Development Manager, Crocker is responsible for working with customer relationships, standards development, laboratory installations, promotion of testing requirements, and installation and training for new customers. Prior to his promotion to business development manager, Crocker was responsible for managing the agents and business in the US and Canada, as well as aiding with promotions around the world, a position he held since joining SDL Atlas in 2004.

Crocker is an active member of several standards development organizations, including ASTM, where he chaired D13 Textiles from 2018-2022; AATCC, where he serves on the Board of Directors as President Elect for 2021-2022 and on a number of research committees; and ISO, where he acts as vice-chair and Technical Expert for the US TAG to TC 38. Prior to joining SDL Atlas, Crocker worked as the Lab Manager/Quality Assurance Manager/ISO Management representative for the Glen Raven Knit Fabrics Group. He has a BS in Industrial Engineering from North Carolina State University.

Rick Stanford has been a member of AATCC since 2011. He has 30 years of experience in the textile industry and has worked extensively with brands, retailers, and factories to improve fabric performance and sustainable processes. He earned a BS in Industrial Management from Georgia Institute of Technology and went to work at Milliken & Co. as a weaving superintendent. Stanford then moved to Symtec, and became product manager, Spinning and Weaving Technology. He then joined Elbit Vision Systems as an Americas sales manager of Vision Technology Fabric Inspection. His next job was with Uster Technologies Ltd. Next, Stanford created Stanford Technologies Inc., where he developed an innovative instrument for the measurement and control of highly critical quality control parameter in the textile industry. After this, he joined SDL Atlas as vice-president, Americas and Europe. It was during this time that he worked with Crocker to develop the new laboratory instrument for AATCC wash fastness and stability standards. Today, Stanford is vice-president, global business development leader at Baldwin Technology Inc.

The Millson Award

AATCC named the Millson Award for Invention for Henry E. Millson, a noted inventor who was head of dyes research for American Cyanamid. Millson, the 1958 recipient of AATCC’s Olney Medal for outstanding achievement in textile chemistry, endowed the award in 1979 with the stipulation that he never be considered a candidate. After agreeing to that condition, the Association promptly named the award in his honor.

The Millson Award will be presented at AATCC’s Textile Discovery Summit during the Award Luncheon on October 6, beginning at noon.