

D. Donald Gagliardi Named Winner Of AATCC's Olney Medal For 1969

THE late D. Donald Gagliardi, founder and president of Gagliardi Research Corp., East Greenwich, R. I., has been named 1969 winner of the Olney Medal by the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists.

Mr. Gagliardi, who died last December following a brief illness, was known internationally for his innovations in developing chemical finishes that provide textile fabrics and fibers with easy care properties. Outstanding among these was a vapor phase treatment for imparting permanent press to all-cotton fabrics.

Born in Sannita, Italy, Mr. Gagliardi came to the U. S. in 1932 at the age of 13. He attended the public

schools in New Haven, Conn., and then went to Yale University under a Sterling Memorial Scholarship. He graduated with a BS from Yale's Sheffield Scientific School in December 1942, and later took graduate courses in high polymers, colloids and physical chemistry at George Washington University and Temple University.

From December 1942 until May 1944 Mr. Gagliardi was a research associate at the Textile Foundation, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D. C. He entered the U. S. Army Chemical Warfare Service in May 1944 where he participated in the development of protective agents for textile applications at the Biological Warfare Center in Camp Detrick, Maryland.

He returned to the Bureau of Standards for a brief period in 1946 before joining Rohm & Haas Co. as a group leader in textile research. He left Rohm & Haas in May 1951 to become research director of Sun Chemical Corp.'s Warwick Chemical Division where he directed broad new work on the development of triazone resins, urons, durable water repellents, special finishes and surfactants. He left Sun in January 1954 to establish Gagliardi Research Corp., a one-man research organization that was later to conduct research for some of the world's largest chemical companies. This research covered a wide range of process areas, from cross-linking of rubber without sulfur to modification of polypropylene fibers.

Many Accomplishments

Mr. Gagliardi was the holder of many patents for textile chemical processes and published extensively in the technical and scientific press. A member of AATCC for more than 20 years, he was also active in the American Chemical Society, the New York Academy of Science, the Yale Engineering Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Fiber Society, the New

York Chemists' Club, the Technical Association of the Pulp and Paper Industry, and the National Research Council.

At the time of his death he was a member of Yale University's admission and scholarship committee for Rhode Island, a member of the East Greenwich Citizens Scholarship Foundation, and secretary of the East Greenwich Industrial Development Commission.

He was the 1964 chairman of the Gordon Research Conferences on Textiles, and was the winner in 1962 of an AATCC award for presenting the best technical paper of the year. He was a Fellow of the University of Southampton in England, and was the recipient shortly before his death of an honorary doctorate from the University of Manchester in England.

Presentation In November

The Olney Medal, AATCC's highest scientific recognition, was established in 1944 in memory of Louis Atwell Olney who founded the association in 1921. Previous medal winners have represented virtually every segment of the textile wet processing industry. Presentation of this year's award will be a highlight of the association's 1969 National Technical Conference to be held November 12-14 in Charlotte, N. C. Mrs. Frances D. Gagliardi, who succeeded her husband as president of Gagliardi Research Corp., will accept the medal on behalf of Mr. Gagliardi, and will present the traditional Olney Medal address.

Members of this year's award committee for the medal included John H. Dillon, Textile Research Institute, Princeton, N. J.; Stephen J. Kennedy, U. S. Army Natick Laboratories, Natick, Mass.; Richard O. Steele, Celanese Fibers Marketing Co., Charlotte, N. C.; R. Lee Wayland, Dan River Mills, Danville, Va.; Joseph H. Jones, Phoenix Dye Works, Cleveland, Ohio, AATCC president; and George P. Paine, AATCC executive secretary.



Copyright of Textile Chemist & Colorist is the property of American Association of Textile Chemists & Colorists (AATCC) and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.