



**Brandon Francois**



**Isha Nabar**

## Future Leaders Award

The **AATCC Future Leaders Award** recognizes promising young professionals in the fields of textiles, apparel, and related material sciences, provides acknowledgement and recognition to enhance their careers, engages these young professionals in the work of the Association, and brings their insights and needs to the forefront. These young professionals are the future of the textile industry and the future leaders of AATCC. Award recipients represent the various AATCC Interest Groups.

AATCC is proud to introduce this year's recipients of the AATCC Future Leaders Award.

## Chemical Applications

**Brandon Francois** is an account manager at Silver Fern Chemical. He has been a member of AATCC since 2017. He is a member of the Piedmont Section, and currently serves as Treasurer.

Francois graduated with a BS in Packaging Science from Clemson University in 2015. After graduation, he worked with Berry Plastics, Pulcra Chemicals, and HeiQ. Throughout his career, Francois has gained experience in chemical applications by working with global brands, focusing on materials innovation and sustainability. At Silver Fern Chemical, he is a sales leader serving the US specialty chemical market with tailored supply-chain solutions for customers across

HII, CASE, agriculture, textiles, nonwovens markets, and beyond. He is focused on developing long term partnerships and introducing Silver Fern to new markets across the Southeast, Gulf, and Midwest.

## Concept 2 Consumer

**Isha Nabar** is a ready-to-wear designer for Tanya Taylor. She has been with Tanya Taylor since 2022, where she has been responsible for all stages of design development with the Ready-to-Wear womenswear team. She has interpreted seasonal direction into innovation and commercial designs, participated in concept research, vintage sourcing, trim, and 3D swatch development. Her skills and experience in embroidery and embellishment, jewelry making, and fashion design led her to become the Founder of Project 'De-Tech,' a fashion-centric initiative influencing teens to engage in gadget-free activities.

Nabar joined AATCC in 2023 and has been participating in many Interest Groups, including Concept 2 Consumer and Rising Professionals. In 2021, Nabar was a recipient of the AATCC Foundation Kanti & Hansa Jasani Family Scholarship, which is awarded to Indian citizens studying textiles at a US university. She received this scholarship while attending Parsons School of Design. She received a BFA in Fashion Design in 2022 and graduated with honors.



**Joshua Ingram**

## Materials

**Joshua Ingram** is a development engineer at PBI Performance Products Inc. He has been with PBI since 2019 and represents the company on various committees. He is a technical expert on PBI materials and test methods used for evaluation materials; coordinates with yarn, fabric, and garment manufacturers to ensure products are of the highest quality; and investigates new applications for PBI products. He has a BS in Materials Science and Engineering and a MS in Textile Engineering from North Carolina State University. His research on fabric flammability and thermally induced fabric shrinkage was presented at ASTM F23 11<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Performance of Protective Clothing and Equipment.

Since joining AATCC in 2019, Ingram has been an active member on several committees. He is a voting member on the Home Laundering Technology, Dimensional Change Test Methods, Fiber Analysis Test Methods, Flammability Technology Committee, and Garment Wet Processing Technology research committees. In the textile industry, he is an active member of ASTM International, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

## Rising Professionals

**Nur-U-Shafa Mazumder** is a graduate research assistant in the Textile Protection and Comfort Center (TPACC) at North Carolina State University. TPACC



**Nur-U-Shafa Mazumder**

is the only academic center in the US that incorporates the capabilities to research, test, and evaluate the comfort and protective performance of textile materials, garments, and ensemble systems in one location. As a graduate research assistant, he analyzes PFAS and evaluates firefighter protective clothing for their contamination resistance to improve wearer protection.

Mazumder received a BS in Textile Technology from Ahsanullah University of Science and Technology. He then received a MS in Design, Housing, and Merchandising from Oklahoma State University, and is currently studying at North Carolina State University to receive a PhD in Fiber and Polymer Science. He received a grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency-Assistance to Firefighters to work on his research of the development of contamination resistance as a measure for firefighter protective clothing.

Mazumder has been a member of AATCC since 2019. His research has been presented at several conferences, including the 2024 AATCC PFAS in Textile Conference and the 2020 AATCC Textile Discovery Summit. His research has also been published in several peer-reviewed books and journals, including *AATCC Journal of Research* in 2020.

For information about the Future Leaders Award, and a list of past recipients, visit [www.aatcc.org/leaders](http://www.aatcc.org/leaders).