Life Lines

Ramon Palop, see *JALCA* **99**, 429, 2004

Albert M. Manich, see *JALCA* **93**, 233, 1998

Augustin Marsal, see *JALCA* **97**, 294, 2002

Hasan Ozgunay, see *JALCA* **100**, 111, 2005

Ozcan Sari, see *JALCA* **100**, 137, 2005

Murat Tozan, received his BSc degree in Leather Technology from Ege University, Izmir, Turkey in 1993. In 1996, he received his MSc in Leather Technology from British School of Leather Technology, University of Northampton, UK. Then he joined research group of Professor A.D. Covington in BSLT to study enzymology in leather making processes. He obtained PhD in Leather Technology from University of Leicester in UK in 2000. He then moved back to Turkey to work at University of Çanakkale as a researcher until 2005 and, at the same time, was doing the technical consultancy to various tanneries in Turkey. He has been working for TFL Turkey as technical and sales manager since 2005. His interests are enzymology, improvement of beamhouse processes, polyphenols and synthetic tanning materials.

Karel Kolomaznik, see *JALCA* **91**, 21, 1996

David G. Bailey, see *JALCA* **92**, 21, 1997

Maryann M. Taylor, see *JALCA* **93**, 328, 1998

Keyi Ding, see *JALCA* **101**, 284, 2006

Eleanor M. Brown, see *JALCA* **93**, 328, 1998

BLC Press Release

Claire Forster has recently joined BLC as Regulatory and Standards Adviser. The main focus of her role is to provide support and advice to members regarding restricted substances that are relevant to all aspects of the leather supply chain. Claire will also be responsible for managing leather standards and specifications.

Claire has a BSc in Applied Chemistry with Biochemistry and has gained varied experience as a development chemist within the household cleaning manufacturing industry. During this time she gained a working knowledge of regulatory issues within the detergent and cosmetics industries. Claire has also worked as a laboratory supervisor for global cement, concrete and building supply business.

Lanxess News Release

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Workshop in Italy for furniture and upper leathers of the future

LANXESS held this year's international leather trend workshop in Santa Croce sull'Arno, Italy, in February, 2007. The event was organized by the new "Competence Centers Italian Innovation" team set up in 2006 to present leather trends in the furniture upholstery and upper leather sectors. The participants included employees from the local Leather business unit, representatives from headquarters in Leverkusen, leather technologists from South America, China, Spain and Portugal and the main Italian dealers.

For some years now, LANXESS has employed the services of an Italian stylist who works for top fashion companies worldwide. This "trend scout" provides the applications technologists in Italy with new ideas for developing fashionable leathers each season.

In Santa Croce, where LANXESS has a competence center with laboratory and applications development department, raw hides were transformed into a collection of colors and leather goods for the Spring/Summer 2008 season. The collection is based on two different trends:

Past + experience + present + research = future

The past is cut up into pieces like a jigsaw puzzle and put together again differently to create a new picture.
Knowledge and ability give rise to revolutionary visions that shape tomorrow.

Colors: light, pale shades such as beige and stone are combined with dark, muted colors from night-blue and violet to agate with metallic or mirror effects.

Air + light + energy + research = vibration

Clear colors dominate, bathing everything in a rich glow and tinting white clouds. Everything flows and vibrates.

Colors: sun yellow, apple green, strawberry red teamed with pale shades such as eggshell and light gray.

During the workshop these ideas were translated into actual leather articles whose appearance and color are in keeping with these trends and arouse the right associations. The aim was to produce different leathers and work out the relevant formulations in accordance with regional market requirements so that customers in the tanning industry worldwide can benefit from the know-how acquired by the workshop participants.

Innovative retanning and finishing agents

The chemical company LANXESS continuously improves its chemicals portfolio for the leather industry in order to meet the customers requirements. Recent, innovative product examples are the polymers LubritanTM XS/XB for so-called "open" waterproofing technology. They can ideally be combined with Levotan® PS 100 for waterproofing applications.

Regarding the regional focus of the business, Dr. Bernhard Wehling, Senior Vice President of LANXESS's Leather business unit, says: "China and India are currently the main growth markets for LANXESS' tanning materials. China is already the most important market for leather chemicals worldwide. Our aim is to continue to grow faster than the market there." He added that, in addition to the traditional markets such as the shoe and furniture industries, the use of leather in the automotive sector was a promising growth sector.

The retanning agent Levotan® PS 100 which is produced by LANXESS Wuxi Chemicals Co., Ltd. in Wuxi, China, specifically exemplify the importance of the Asian and specifically of the Chinese market for LANXESS as a dedicated supplier of the leather industry.

As a result of recent investments at the Wuxi site, LANXESS now has also considerable capacities for manufacturing powdered tanning materials from the Tanigan® and Retingan® ranges in China.

LANXESS's products for the leather industry include inorganic and synthetic tanning materials, preservatives and fatliquoring agents, dyestuffs, and a wide range of tanning and finishing auxiliaries. Shoe upper leather accounts for about half of the Leather business unit's sales, automotive leather for roughly a quarter, and furniture leather for 20 percent. The business unit is among the leading suppliers to the leather industry and forms part of LANXESS's Performance Chemicals segment.

(Leverkusen, February 28, 2007)

Obituary - Frank Scholnick

It is with sadness that we are informed of the passing of Mr. Frank Scholnick on April 13, 2007. Husband of the late Myra (nee Lester); father of Faith (Fred) Schwaibold and Lisa Scholnick; also survived by one grandson, Danny.

Frank's first contributions at the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, PA, were research in the Animal Fat Lab's polymer projects. In this work he developed technology to make polyurethane foams from fats and oils. He also developed esterified disaccharides as biodegradable surfactants. His later career was in hides & leather research. Frank developed UV- and e-beam curable finishes for leather, using processes that obviated the need for organic solvents in such finishing. He also investigated collagen crosslinking agents as alternative tannages.

Frank received his PhD in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. He was active with the American Chemical Society (including the Philadelphia Section, where he contributed to the Section's magazine, the Catalyst), the American Oil Chemists' Society, and the American Leather Chemists Association. He had been a member of the ALCA since 1980.