LIFE LINES

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

William N. Marmer, see *JALCA* **93**, 328, 1998

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

J.M. Morera, see *JALCA* 101, 284, 2006

A. Bacardit, see *JALCA* 101, 284, 2006

L. Olle, see *JALCA* 101, 284, 2006

J. Costa, see *JALCA* 101, 284, 2006

S. Banaszak, see *JALCA* 101, 376, 2006

Ahmet Aslan graduated with a degree in Leather Technology, Department of Agriculture Faculty at Ege, Turkey, in 1995. He received his M.Sc. degree and Ph.D. degree at same department in 1999 and 2005 respectively. He was appointed to work as a Research Assistant in the Leather Engineering Department of Engineering Faculty at Ege University in 1997. His field of interest includes leather processing technologies and cleaner leather processing methodologies. He is presently an Associate Professor at the Leather Engineering Department of Engineering Faculty at the University of Ege in Turkey

Huseyin Ata Karavana, in the year 1996, graduated from the Leather Technology Department of Agriculture Faculty at Ege University, Turkey, and started his master degree in the same faculty. He was appointed to work as a Research Assistant in the Leather Engineering Department of Engineering Faculty at Ege University in 1999. He has completed his M.Sc. thesis on the issue of "Availability of Zinc on Combination Tannage" in 2001. He has published 14 articles on topics such as leather quality, process technologies, waste utilization, foot measurement, leather and shoe industries. He continues his doctor degree study in the same department in Turkey. He is presently a Research Assistant in the Leather Engineering Department of Faculty of Engineering at Ege University in Turkey.

G. Gulumser, see *JALCA* **101**, 1, 2006

Ihsan Yasa was graduated in Basic and Industrial Microbiology Section, Science Faculty at Ege University Izmir Turkey with a doctoral dissertation on the production of glucose isomerase from *Streptomyces sp.* in 1998. His research field are screening of potential enzyme producer microorganisms, identification of bacteria and fungi, enzyme production and purification, modification of antimicrobial agents, bioremediation, modeling of growth and microbial biosensors. Some research projects and publications are phenol degradation of immobilized *P.putida*, production and purification of lipase, cellulase, alkaline protease, glucose isomerase, urease, organic solvent protease and alanine dehidrogenase from microorganisms, vitamine B_6 detection by using *S.cerevisiae.* He is presently an Associate Proffesor in Department of Biology, Science Faculty, Ege University in Turkey.

Bilge Hilal Cadirci was graduated from Gazi University, Faculty of Education and Department of Biology in the year 2000. In the same year, she registered and started to the master program of Gazi University, Institute of Science and Department of Biology. She graduated from master program in 2003, with a thesis titled as "Antagonistic Effects of Lactic Acid Bacteria on Some Gram (+) and Gram (-) Bacteria". She is presently continuing to her education as a PhD student in Ege University, Institute of Science Department of Biology, Basic and Industrial Microbiology Section. At the same time, she is a research assistant in this Section. Her PhD thesis is about Organic Solvent Tolerant Lipase Producer Bacteria. She is interested in Industrial Microbiology, Microbial Physiology, Enzymology and Microbial Diversity.

Swarna V. Kanth, see *JALCA* **101**, 435, 2006

Anu Ipe holds a B.Sc.degree from Madras University, India, and was a student at the Center for Human and Organisational Resources Development, Central Leather Research Institute. Her areas of interest include surface science.

B. Madhan, see *JALCA* **100**, 282, 2005

R. Venba, see *JALCA* **100**, 354, 2005

Aruna Dhathathreyan is a scientist in the Chemical Laboratory of the Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, India, with a PhD in Biophysics. Her area of expertise is interfacial science and biophysical chemistry.

Bayer to base Global Footwear Competence Center in Shanghai

Leverkusen/Shanghai - In December, 2006, Bayer MaterialScience announced it has established its Global Footwear Competence Center (GFCC) in Shanghai, China, where it will spearhead the development of advanced materials and provide technical support to the global footwear industry.

Peter Vanacker, Head of the Polyurethanes Business Unit of Bayer MaterialScience, explained that this decision reflects the importance of China as a global footwear production powerhouse, and Bayer's commitment to provide expert and customized technical support close to its customers.

"China accounts for more than 60 percent of global footwear production. In 2005, more than 7 billion pairs of shoes were made in China, which is more than one pair of shoes for every person on the planet," Vanacker said. "In addition, the footwear industry has to be very closely aligned with changing fashion and lifestyle requirements. This requires very short development and response times, and, therefore, we see the need to be located close to both our customers and the market."

The GFCC will function as a technical backbone for BaySystems - Bayer's global polyurethanes systems house network. Through the GFCC, the BaySystems Footwear Business Development teams from around the world will be able to leverage on cutting edge polyurethane systems and processing technology to serve its global and local customers. The GFCC will focus on the development of new innovative technologies and advanced materials, as well as the continuous improvement of existing technologies.

The GFCC is situated within Bayer MaterialScience's Polymer Research and Development Center located at the Jinqiao Industrial Processing Zone in Shanghai. It is equipped with the most advanced footwear-related facilities. These include injection-molding machines for both polyurethane and thermoplastic polyurethane applications, casting machines as well as a pre-polymer and polyol formulation pilot plant.

The GFCC expands on existing capabilities instituted at the company's global headquarters in Germany. "Here in Shanghai, we will continue to build on Bayer MaterialScience's existing expertise in polyurethane systems for footwear applications, and at the same time further push technology and material development," said Roy Lin, Head of Business Development for BaySystems Molded Parts & Elastomers, and Automotive Systems. "As part of our efforts to consistently be at the forefront of development, we will continue to invest in state-of-the-art instruments at the GFCC in Shanghai," Lin revealed.

With 2005 sales of 10.7 billion euros, Bayer MaterialScience AG is among the world's largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, electrical and electronics, construction and the sports and leisure industries. At the end of 2005, Bayer MaterialScience has employed approximately 18,800 people at 40 production sites around the globe. Bayer MaterialScience is a Bayer Group company.

More news and information about products, applications and services of Bayer MaterialScience can be found at www.bayerbms.com. Further company facts and figures are outlined at www.facts.bayerbms.com.

ALCA Press Release – March 1, 2007

Now Accepting Registrations for the XXIX Congress of the International Union of Leather Technologists and Chemists Societies (IULTCS) Congress / 103rd Annual Meeting of the American Leather Chemists Association (ALCA) to convene on June 20-24, 2007, at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, D.C., USA.

The event will feature the Heidemann Lecture by Dr. Lorenz Siggel and the Wilson Lecture by Mr. Richard Daniels in addition to more than 100 oral presentations and visual displays. Enjoy an evening with 'George Washington' at the historic Willard Hotel as well as the traditional ALCA golf outing to Westfields Golf Club. Complete details and registration forms are available at www.leatherchemists.org.