

# PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2010 ALSOP AWARD

by

CHENG-KUNG LIU AND GEORGE STOCKMAN

## Cheng-Kung Liu

Mr. President, members of the American Leather Association and honored guests. The ALSOP Award was established by ALCA council in 1939 and is given in the memory of the late W. K. Alsop. Tannin Corporation has generously donated the annual prize to be awarded for outstanding scientific or technical contributions to the leather industry. This year (2010) ALOP selection committee (consisted of Pat Ramakrishnan, Steve Wren, and C.K. Liu) has chosen George Stockman of Buckman to be the recipient of Alsop Award. George's accomplishments on the new technology and science for environmental protection and hide preparations are many; particularly his recent work on short-term preservation has made significant impact to leather industry.

George has served the ALCA in various capacities since his election into membership in 1979, including: Councilor, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Chairman of the John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture Committee, Chairman of the Alsop Award Committee, and member of the Fred O'Flaherty Service Award Committee. He has also participated in various standing committees of the Association, including the Research Liaison Committee and has made several presentations at Annual Meetings, which he generally attends with his loving wife, Pat. George graduated from the University of New Hampshire with a B.S. degree in chemistry. He also earned an M.S. degree from the University of Cincinnati, completing his thesis work in chrome recovery, while employed by the Pfister & Vogel Leather Co. in Milwaukee.

During the conception of key environmental regulations impacting the leather industry, George was instrumental in effecting workable solutions to troublesome regulatory challenges in the State of Wisconsin. He was especially helpful in resolving User Charges, and issues surrounding chrome, sulfide, and pH limitations. He pioneered chrome recovery practices that have become the standard of the industry. Similarly, he was instrumental in demonstrating and implementing sulfide handling and treatment procedures to protect tannery personnel and the community.

Besides his achievements in the area of environmental engineering at P&V, George served the Company as Manager of Research & Development as well as Vice President of Manufacturing. In 1995 he became Vice President of Environmental Affairs for U.S. Leather, the parent company, with corporate responsibility for environmental compliance and safety and health. George is the Business & Applications Development Manager for Leather Chemicals at Buckman-

USA in Memphis, Tennessee, where he has been an associate since 2001. In his various positions at Buckman, he has focused on developing new concepts for leathermaking technology. His utilization of nontraditional means has led to improved understanding in the application of existing functional chemistries.

George's more recent contributions to leather technology have covered a broad range of practical applications. Some of the subject areas include: Practical methods for the hydrolysis of blue shavings, Determining spray machine transfer efficiency, Alternatives to alkyl phenol ethoxylates for degreasing, and Minimum-risk fungicides for spray application to wet blue.

Now, we welcome George to give his Alsop Award acceptance speech.

## George Stockman

I will be brief. I have to admit that when C.K. Liu called me in December to advise me that I had been selected as this year's recipient of ALCA's Alsop Award, I was flabbergasted! To say I am honored would be a gross understatement. As I look back at the illustrious list of previous award winners, I am struck by the fact that I have known most of them—many on a personal basis. Early recipients of the award include giants of the industry including: Fred O'Flaherty, Maeser, Turley, Stubbing and Roddy. Among the notables of our organization that I have had the privilege of working with are Dr. Robert M. Lollar, the longtime Director of the Tanner's Council Laboratory, Dr. James Constantin of Pfister & Vogel Tanning Co., Dr. David Bailey of the ERRC, and Frank Rutland of LIA. In more recent years, the Alsop has been awarded to: Jim Hodder, Cheng-Kung Liu, Janice Barnes, Satyendra De, Dennis Shelly, Anton Ela'mma, Lori Hyllengren, Bill Marmer, and Karel Kolomaznik. Each made special contributions to the advancement of leathermaking science and technology.

Further analysis of this list of previous award winners, surprisingly—to me at least—reveals that the recipients come from a wide cross-section of our industry. They include scientists, engineers, and technicians from government laboratories, industry research organizations, chemical companies and tanneries. Their interests have spanned an even wider range of technical subject matter. But, the common ground that I see is their unending devotion to unraveling the mysteries of leather science and production, and sharing their findings in an unselfish and unbiased manor. It is truly humbling to be included in their ranks.

In accepting this award, I would like to pay special tribute to Dean Didato, for his energetic support of the research I have been involved in in recent years. I would also like to thank my employer, Buckman-USA for providing me the wherewithal to explore areas of leather technology for which the payback is long term and not immediately obvious. If I were to finish my remarks here, I could boast of being as brief and as focused as Abraham Lincoln in his famous Gettysburg Address. Alas, I am no Abraham Lincoln.

Seriously, I have just one more thing to say: a challenge to the younger members of the ALCA—future recipients of the Alsop Award. Don't be afraid to champion your ideas and challenge the status quo in leather technology. Our industry will survive and prosper only by latching onto your vision and harnessing your energy to create a new vista for leather technology. Thank you for this wonderful honor.



C.K. Liu presents Alsop award to George Stockman.



George Stockmen presents Wilson plaque to Dr. Adzet.



Craig Keyser receives the gavel from David LeBlanc.

# PRESENTATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2010 O'FLAHERTY SERVICE AWARD

by

NICK LATONA AND DOUGLAS G. MORRISON

## Nick Latona

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen. The 2010 Fred O'Flaherty committee consisting of Goetz Hagen, Tony Khanna and myself would like to present this award to a very deserving individual. Council established the Fred O'Flaherty Service Award in 1973 to recognize individual active ALCA members who have made over a period of time significant contributions to the Association or to the leather and leather products industries through the ALCA.

This year's recipient graduated from Concord College in Athens, West Virginia with a B.S degree in Secondary Education in 1973. He started out teaching Math and Physical Education and coaching Football, Basketball, Track, and Tennis in the Virginia public school system for four years before beginning his career in the leather industry. He moved back to West Virginia in 1977 and began his career in the leather industry as a general foreman at the Howes Leather Company sole leather tannery in Frank, West Virginia. During his six years in Frank, he was promoted to quality control director and to assistant plant superintendent. In 1983 he was transferred to the Howes Leather sole leather tannery in Curwensville, PA as the plant manager responsible for the entire vegetable tanning operation. On January 1, 1990 he joined Wickett and Craig of America, Inc. assisting in moving their tannery from Toronto, Ontario to Curwensville, PA and serving as plant manager responsible for producing a wide variety of high quality vegetable tanned leathers; including Belting, English Bridle, Harness, Skirting and Carving Leathers. In March 1999 he joined Westfield Tanning of Westfield PA where he served as the Technical Director responsible for all quality aspects of their vegetable tanned leathers. On January 1, 2002 he joined the Hermann Oak Leather Company located in St. Louis, MO where he is currently the Northeast Sales Representative and Technical Consultant responsible for producing and selling high quality Skirting, Strap, Harness, Bag, and Belt leathers for Hermann Oak.

Since joining the ALCA in 1978, he has been an active member of the association. He was a member of the O'Flaherty Award Committee in 1996. He has served on the methods (1998–2003), nominating (2009) and research liaison (2005–present) committees. He is the first in the history of the ALCA to serve in all three officer positions; as Vice President elect (1996–1997), Vice President (1997–1998), President (1997–1998), and when the association needed him again, he stepped up and served again as President from October 2004 to June 2005, councilor (2000–2003), convention vice chair in 2002

and 2003, and convention chair twice serving 2004, 2005 and again for 2008 and 2009. He is an individual who this association has been able to count on time and time again, from being in the spot light as president to being behind the scenes as convention chair ensuring our annual meetings such as this one run smooth to other tasks we may never know about or take for granted. It is therefore with great pleasure on behalf of the ALCA to present and honor a very deserving individual of the 2010 Fred O'Flaherty Award to Doug Morrison.

## Douglas G. Morrison

Nick, thank you for that very kind introduction. Mr. President, officers, counselors, fellow ALCA members and guests; I am deeply honored and humbled by your selection for the Fred O'Flaherty Service Award. My service to this organization has been mild in comparison to the many recipients of this award over the past 36 years.

Nick spoke of my history in the leather industry, but my tanning experience actually began at age 18 working in a sole leather tannery in West Virginia during my sophomore, junior, and senior years of college in the summertime. I started in the Beam House and learned during my first week on the job that if you fall into a lime yard vat of unhairing solution while reeling over the hides that the hair will come off your legs and arms before you can get a shower.

After college graduation I became a teacher and coach and learned more about the concept of teamwork. As a first year head football coach in a small, rural high school in Fries, Virginia, I had a freshman football player named Jeff Shaffner on the team. Jeff had practiced with the team all season long but was not getting much playing time on the field. Finally during the last game of the season, we had a comfortable lead and we started substituting players into the game during the fourth quarter. Standing on the sideline with his helmet on and ready to play was Jeff Shaffner. So I said Jeff, do you know your plays? He said, Yeah Coach! I said Jeff, do you know where to go on defense? He said, Yeah Coach! I said, then Jeff —GET PSCHYED! He said, what's his number Coach?

In 1977, after 4 years of teaching and coaching, I returned to my beloved tannery in West Virginia where I had worked as a college student, but this time to work with my father, who was the Plant Manager, to learn the art and science of making vegetable tanned sole leather. I was immediately enrolled in the Tanner's Council Leather Technology course in Cincinnati,

OH and began my journey into the technical aspects of making leather from two of the top scholars of our time, Dr. Robert Lollar and Jean Tancous. My leather training also included 3 years of independent study with Neville Slabbert's correspondence course from the Leather Industry Research Institute in Grahamstown, South Africa. That training and hands on experience have guided me through 33 years of vegetable tanning in five tanneries including my current employer, Hermann Oak Leather Company in St. Louis, MO.

When Nick notified me that I would be the recipient of this award, I started to wonder—who is Fred O'Flaherty and why is a service award named after him? I thought maybe you were wondering about that too! I discovered that Fred O'Flaherty spent his entire career in leather with the Tanner's Council Laboratory. He was a Medical Doctor and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine by training and he was particularly interested in the histology of hides and skins. He did a considerable amount of research in this area. Fred O'Flaherty was President of the ALCA in 1935 and 1936. He was presented the Alsop Award in 1943, and he received the Moffat Award of Merit for outstanding service to the ALCA in 1946. He was Director of the Tanner's Council Research Lab and remained in that position until his retirement. He was also Secretary-Treasurer of the ALCA for over 20 years. Fred was recognized by his friends and colleagues as an excellent administrator and educator. Above all, he was a gentleman. Many believed his main contribution came through the accomplishments of his former students and associates. The service he gave the Association and the leather industry is recognized by the naming of this particular award after him. The first recipient in 1974 was Clinton Retzch followed by Joseph Casnocha, Stephen Shivas, Velma Becker, Dr. Robert Lollar, Jean Tancous, John Moynihan, Dean Didato and many other active and selfless members of the ALCA to name a few.

My 32 years of involvement with the ALCA began in 1978 attending my first convention at the Lake Placid Club in Lake Placid, NY with over 500 attendees. I have been fortunate to be able to attend 30 of those 32 meetings since joining the ALCA. All of the conventions were well-organized, outstanding events but a few stand out. In 1980 we had the first Fun Run at Buck Hill Inn in Buck Hill Falls, PA where Dr. David Bailey and I competed in the first of many races to the finish line. I wish to thank Mr. Jim Haggerty and World Leather Magazine for continuing support for that event for 30 years. The sand was so hot in 1981 at Hilton Head Island, SC that we held the Fun Run at 7:00 am. In 1982 and 1985 we were here at Lake Geneva holding the convention at The Abbey. One of my favorite locations was the Pinehurst Hotel in Pinehurst, NC with its big country porch, rocking chairs, and great golf courses in 1986, 1989, 1992, 1995, and in 1998 where I served as Vice President in charge of the Technical Program. We actually operated a tanning drum in the Pittards tannery in England from a laptop computer in Pinehurst



Nick Latona presents O'Flaherty Service Award to Doug Morrison.

during that meeting. I served as President at Grand Traverse in rainy Michigan in 1999. In 2004 I was fortunate to serve as Convention Chairman in St. Louis for our 100th celebration of annual conventions at the Chase Park Plaza. In 2005 at Sky Top, PA I had the honor to serve as both Convention Chairman and President at the same meeting. Once again I had the privilege to serve in 2008 as Convention Chair at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro, NC and in 2009 at Oglebay in Wheeling, WV.

In conclusion, there is one main question that all of us ask ourselves each year prior to attending this annual meeting. Why is this meeting of the American Leather Chemists Association important to me? I offer to you 3 suggestions:

1. The ALCA venue provides a sharing of current and up to date valuable technical information attained both in formal and informal sessions. Craig Keyser did a great job of organizing the technical meeting for us this year.
2. The social aspects—activities are planned by the Convention Committee to take advantage of the various locations and I congratulate Sarah Drayna and the convention committee for a great event here at the Grand Geneva Resort.
3. The ALCA annual meeting provides a structured opportunity to address issues and concerns of the global leather industry as we witnessed today in our Environmental session.

The ALCA was founded in 1903 and held its first convention in St. Louis, MO in 1904. This is our 106th annual meeting. As our President, Dave LeBlanc stated in his opening address yesterday, and restated at the business meeting today; if our

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organization is to continue for another 100 years, it is incumbent upon our members to step up and serve!

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to the O'Flaherty nominating committee consisting of Nick Latona, Goetz Hagen, and Tony Khanna. I want to thank Shep Hermann for his continued support of the ALCA over the years. And I especially wish to thank my lovely wife of 37 years, Diana, for her support and encouragement of my leather career and involvement in the ALCA.

Finally, my challenge to the membership of the American Leather Chemists Association is the same as I challenged my freshman football player, Jeff Shaffner—GET PSYCHED! Please get involved and when your turn to serve arises, step up and help your organization achieve its continued success.

I thank you for your time and attention and respectfully accept the 2010 O'Flaherty Service Award with my great appreciation to all of you. It has been my pleasure to serve, thank you very much!

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Igualada, May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

Dear colleague,

With this letter we would like to announce the celebration of the next XXXI Congress of the International Union of Leather Technologists & Chemists (IULTCS) that will be held in Valencia (Spain) in September 27-30<sup>th</sup> 2011.

You may find additional information at the web [www.aqeic.org](http://www.aqeic.org). We would update periodically with any new information available. On the other hand, we would appreciate your help, whenever possible, in disseminating this event.

We would like to inform you that **you can already send the abstract** of the communication you would like to present in the congress, within the following topics:

- Basic research in the tanning industry
- Clean innovative technologies in the tanning industry
- The use of advance techniques for the analysis of leather
- New developments in chemical product for the tanning industry
- Waste products and environment
- New technologies of information and communication (TIC) in the tanning industry
- Future technologies in the tanning industry
- Research and development of machinery in the tanning industry

We would like to remind you that the official language of the congress are Spanish and English, and that your abstract should follow the format you will find in the webpage. The abstract should be submitted before November 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 at [iultcs2011@diei.udl.cat](mailto:iultcs2011@diei.udl.cat).

Sincerely,

Sr. Vicente Segarra  
Presidente del Comité Organizador

Sr. Luis Mª Labastida  
Presidente de AQEIC

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## NOTE FROM THE *JOURNAL* EDITOR

Dear members, subscribers, authors, leather scientists and conference guests,

I want to reflect on our recent annual meeting, recognize new Editorial Board members and thank authors for their continuing excellent support.

- The technical program at the 106th American Leather Chemists Annual Meeting this past June again offered an interesting mix of presentations: scientific research, practical technology, environmental issues, global raw material supply and laboratory testing. Many of these technical presentations will be published in *JALCA* during the remaining months of this year. The Leather Industries of America reviewed current issues facing the US Industry (see: leatherusa.com). The presentations by the four speakers on the environmental panel generated a very lively and stimulating question and answer session.
- This *Journal* would not exist without the hard work and guidance of our Editorial Board. I am pleased to welcome

Nicholas Cory, Anton Ela'mma and Prasad Inaganti as new members our *Journal* Editorial Board. Their wealth of knowledge and experience should assure we continue to have a robust high quality *Journal* peer review process.

- I want to thank our valued Authors for their support and efforts to comply with the guidance's of our 2009 revised *Journal* Publication Policy (JPP). We received many more interesting manuscripts than the 44 we were budgeted to publish annually. This editor was therefore required to make some difficult choices; these choices were based on conformance to JPP, reader interest and diversity of subject matter. The JPP and searchable abstracts are on our website: [leatherchemists.org/publications](http://leatherchemists.org/publications).

Thank you to everyone that makes this *Journal* possible. Your comments and suggestions are encouraged.

**Robert F. White**  
*Journal* Editor  
June 2010