
LIFE LINES

Yue Yu received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering in Light Industry at Sichuan University in 2014. Now he is undertaking his Ph.D. degree in Leather Chemistry and Engineering at Sichuan University. His research now focuses on chrome-free tanning technology.

Wei-Cai Zeng received his PhD degree in Biomass Chemistry and Engineering at Sichuan University in 2014. Now he is a teacher and researcher of Sichuan University. His research focuses on valuable utilization of biomass resource.

Ya-nan Wang, see *JALCA 109*, 170, 2014

Bi Shi, see *JALCA 99*, 220, 2004

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

Lorelei P. Bumanlag, see *JALCA 104*, 79, 2009

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

Cheng-Kung Liu, see *JALCA 94*, 158, 1999

Venkatasubramanian Sivakumar, see *JALCA 108*(7), 288, 2013

T. R. Swathi finished her B. Tech (Chemical Engineering) in the year 2013 from SASTRA University, Tjavore, Tamil Nadu, India.

Resmi Mohan finished her M. Tech (Bio-Process Engineering) in the year 2014. She is working on the research projects related to enzymatic applications in leather processing and related processes in CSIR-CLRI.

Asit Baran Mandal, see *JALCA 110* (7), 2015.

M. Jawahar, see *JALCA 101*(12), 435, 2006.

Swarna V. Kanth, see *JALCA 101*, 445, 2006

R. Venba, see *JALCA 99*, 233, 2004.

N. K. Chandra Babu, see *JALCA 96*, 148, 2001.

Myron Hooks has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and has developed analytical test methods for 10+ years.

Michelle Hayes has a Bachelor's degree in biology and chemistry from Eastern Michigan University and has worked in analysis of various materials for 13 years.

Ralph Maendle has a Master's degree in leather engineering from the Westdeutsche Gerberschule Reutlingen, Germany and has worked in the leather industry for 25 years, 17 years with Eagle Ottawa Leather Company.



CALL FOR PAPERS
FOR THE 112TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION
OGLEBAY RESORT, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA
JUNE 22-25, 2016

If you have recently completed or will shortly be completing research studies relevant to hide preservation, hide and leather defects, leather manufacturing technology, new product development, tannery equipment development, leather properties and specifications, tannery environmental management, or other related subjects, you are encouraged to present the results of this research at the next annual convention of the Association to be held at the Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, West Virginia, June 12-25, 2016

Abstracts must be received by April 30, 2016.
Full Presentations are due by June 1, 2016.

They are to be submitted by e-mail to the ALCA Vice-President and Chair of the Technical Program:

David Peters
DLP Advisors
Phone: +1 240 490 9007
E-mail: DLPeters99@gmail.com

The Abstract should begin with the title in capital letters, followed by the authors' names. An asterisk should denote the name of the speaker, and contact information should be provided that includes an e-mail address. The abstract should be no longer than 300 English words, and in the Microsoft Word format.

Full Presentations at the convention will be limited to 25 minutes. In accordance with the Association Bylaws, all presentations are considered for publication by *The Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association*. They are not to be published elsewhere, other than in abstract form, without permission of the *Journal* Editor. For further paper preparation guidelines please refer to the *JALCA* Publication Policy on our website: leatherchemists.org

They are to be submitted by e-mail to the *JALCA* editor:

Robert F. White,
Journal Editor
The American Leather Chemists Association
E-mail: jalcaeditor@prodigy.net
Mobile Phone (616) 540-2469

9.17.15

NOTE FROM THE *JOURNAL* EDITOR

Dear members, subscribers, authors, leather scientists and contributors to The Journal of The American Leather Chemists Association.

This has been a year where we pursued higher quality manuscripts that embraced research that addressed important industry issues and leather applications for emerging new technologies. Our expanded and more international Editorial Board made our peer review process more robust and better able to address technologies such as nano- and quantum chemistry. This year we broaden our reach by offered research from laboratories and countries that have not published in the *Journal* in recent years.

At our 111th Annual Convention this past June the Wilson Lecture by Dr. Dietrich Tegtmeier set the stage for an invigorating conference that featured sustainability and automotive leather presentations. The lectures about advances in basic leather research were interspersed with stimulating international perspectives on hide trade and regulatory issues. This December *Journal* includes two Convetion presentations.

The ALCA Lollar Award paper, *High Performance Acrylic Polymer Technology for Use in Leather Finishing Processes* by Hoefler, presented at the November IULCTS in Brazil, has been updated with new weathering research. For a copy contact this editor or author: jhoefler@dow.com.

I want to thank the many people that make this *Journal* possible and available in both print and the electronic (*e*zine) formats. For the electronic *JALCA* subscribers, log-on to: alcajournal.com or use the link at our website: leatherchemists.org. Your comments and suggestions are strongly encouraged and most welcome – send to jalcaeditor@prodigy.net

And, be sure to Mark your Calendars now for next years Annual Convention, returning to Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, WV, June 22-25, 1016. Next years program will continue this diversity of new technologies, global trends and issues reports.

Robert F. White
Journal Editor
December 2015

OBITUARY

DR. MILA R. ALDEMA-RAMOS

It is with profound sadness that I acknowledge the passing of Research Chemist Dr. Mila R. Aldema-Ramos, on November 15, 2015, in Souderton, Pennsylvania. She was 59 years old.

Dr. Aldema-Ramos was a native of Mindanao, Philippines. She held a PhD in biological chemistry from University of Connecticut and had been conducting research as a protein chemist for nearly 28 years and also as an analytical chemist for almost 37 years, specifically in the areas of protein expression, purification, crystallization, characterization and environmental pollution monitoring. She spent 14 years (1992-2006) at Tufts University School of Medicine involved in structure and function studies of crystallized membrane proteins responsible for antibiotic resistance utilizing various molecular biology, biochemistry and analytical chemistry techniques. She was awarded an outstanding minority scientist grant by NIH in 1997-2005 for her collaborative work with Dr. Stuart B. Levy of Tufts and Dr. Per Bullough, Director, Krebs Institute of Biotechnology in Sheffield University, UK, on the above studies that generated the first quaternary image of TetA, the tetracycline resistant protein that serves as an efflux pump.

In 2006, Dr. Aldema-Ramos joined ARS, as a Research Chemist working in the Biobased and Other Animal Coproducts Research Unit. In these 9 years with ARS, she established novel complimentary analytical techniques combining SDS-PAGE or polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis with Western blotting and MALDI-TOF which verified, for

the first time, the presence of dimeric, intact, core protein and fragmentation products of decorin. With the availability of more diversified analytical techniques, the true optimum amount of decorin allowed to remain in leather to account for softness, flexibility, and yet strong physical characteristics can be determined properly. Based on that, she had a successful collaboration with Spanish scientists from AIICA in developing an effective method of analyzing the decorin content of their leather-like product called BCD-dried collagenous biomaterial, obtained from the waterless tanning method they developed. Recently, she developed a promising presoaking formulation that can remove adobe type manure with some pathogenic bacterial growth inhibition. The hide industry has been receptive and excited about the outcome of the cost effective and more environmentally friendly (lower pollution load) process with comparable leather quality to the control traditionally cured with high salt. She received the Certificate of Achievement Award for Outstanding Service in Private Sector Involvement, Federal Employee Board Excellence in Government Awards Program, 2011.

Survivors include her husband, Rooney Ramos and son, DJ Ramos. Dr. Aldema-Ramos' funeral service date and place will be announced later.

Cheng-Kung Liu, Ph.D
Eastern Regional Research Center
600 East Mermaid Lane,
Wyndmoor, PA 19038

COUNCIL CONFERENCE CALL MINUTES
AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION
FALL COUNCIL MEETING
OCTOBER 13, 2015
10 AM EASTERN/9 AM CENTRAL STANDARD TIME

Present

Officers: Sarah Drayna, David Peters
 Council Members: Mike Bley, Jeff Miller,
 Gary Rennerfeldt, Andy Rhein
 Convention Chair: Doug Morrison
 Executive Secretary: Carol Adcock

1. Welcome

President Sarah Drayna called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for their time. Councilors Beat Schelling and Chris Koelblinger were unable to participate in the call. It was determined that a quorum was present.

2. Minutes

The minutes of the June 10, 2015 meeting and 2015 Annual Business Meeting were previously approved via email.

3. Financial Reports – Carol Adcock***2015 Annual Convention Recap***

The Council reviewed the Income and Expenses from the 111th ALCA Annual Convention. A net profit of \$19,527 was realized. Doug Morrison was commended for the financial success of the convention. Mr. Morrison said it was a team effort and recognized the efforts of Ms. Drayna and Ms. Adcock in helping with the sponsorship campaign. The attendance as well as a recap of the John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture expenses was reviewed.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the 2015 Annual Meeting Financial Report prior to the meeting.

Year to Date Financial Reports

Council reviewed the Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet through September 30, 2015 as well as a Budget vs. Actual report through the same time period. It was noted that the financials only included the investment account through August 2015 as the September statement had not been received.

The current Membership Breakdown as well as a dues and subscriptions breakdown for 2016 was handed out and reflected the following:

172 Active, 44 Active Life, 3 Active Life Mutual, 19 Active Life Retired, 16 Active Mutual, 37 Active Retired, 2 Students,

and 34 SLTC along with 6 SLTC Students, for a total of 333 members. Out of the above membership that is anticipated for 2016, dues will be collected from 192 paying members, excluding the dues that will be collected from the SLTC members. There are 60 subscriptions that will be invoiced for renewal for 2016.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Financial Reports as submitted prior to the meeting.

4. 2016 Update of Annual Convention

Doug Morrison made the following report regarding the 2016 Annual Convention preparations:

Contract Provisions

Doug Morrison reported that the 2016 site will be Oglebay Resort, Wheeling, West Virginia, June 22-25. Our last deposit of \$2500 is due December 21, 2015. Discussion was held about the final deposit. Ms. Adcock is to let Mr. Morrison know how our cash flow is doing in early December to determine if we need to negotiate a later deadline for that payment.

There are three different rates depending on the type of room desired. The rates will be as follows:

Single Intermediate: \$302.25
 Deluxe: \$326.27
 Premium: \$358.26

Double Intermediate: \$216
 Deluxe: \$228
 Premium: \$244 – all per person per night

Rates quoted are per person per day and include breakfast, lunch, pre-dinner hors d'oeuvres and dinner. Rates also include service charge and taxes. Package day begins Wednesday with lunch and ends Saturday with breakfast.

Schedule

The tentative schedule for the convention was previously emailed to Council. Mr. Morrison reviewed it with Council. He noted that Buckman has generously volunteered to send Larry Shaver and his golf analyzer again for 2016. He will do this on Thursday evening, June 23.

Entertainment

Mr. Morrison asked Council their preference about entertainment for the convention. It was decided that he should get a quote for having a Casino Night on Thursday, June 23 since we are already paying for the room where Mr. Shaver will hold the golf analyzer event.

Convention Vice Chair

It was reported that Lee Lehman has agreed to be the Convention Vice Chair for 2016. Motion was made, seconded and carried to accept Lee Lehman as the 2016 Convention Vice Chair.

Sponsorship Campaign

The Sponsorship Campaign will remain the same as the past previous years. The campaign should get started no later than March of 2016. Mr. Lehman will be in charge of the campaign.

Sports Coordinator

Mr. Morrison was asked if he had any recommendations for Sports Coordinator. He will get back to Council with a recommendation. It was noted that this is a good position to bring in new volunteers.

Social Coordinator

Mr. Morrison felt there was no need for a Social Coordinator for 2016.

Proposed Budget

A proposed budget for the 2016 convention was emailed to Council for their review. Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to approve such budget as presented.

AV Person

Mr. Morrison will contact Nick Latona to see if he will be able to be the AV Coordinator for 2016. If he is not, Mr. Morrison has another person to contact.

Technical Program – David Peters, Chair

Discussion followed regarding the technical program. Mr. Peters reported that he already one firm commitment and several others that are considering presenting. However, he said that he needed everyone's help to get speakers. All councilors are committed to get at least one speaker. Council was also encouraged to share topics they would like to have covered during the technical program. Council has already scheduled another conference call for December to further discuss the technical program. A couple councilors will encourage the LWG to send a representative to the convention to give a presentation. Council would like to have presentations again by John Wittenborn and Stephen Sothmann.

Wilson Lecture – Alex Campbell, Chair

The Wilson Lecture will be given by Rachel Garwood. It is on track for 2016. Both her photo and bio have been posted on the

Association's website as well as the tentative title for the presentation.

Alsop Award – Lori Hyllengren, Chair

Ms. Hyllengren has indicated that her committee has several names they are considering for the Alsop Award. She will submit her nominee for Council approval before the end of the year.

O'Flaherty Service Award – Doug Morrison, Chair

The 2016 recipient of the O'Flaherty Service Award has already been approved by Council. Mr. Morrison was instructed that he may go ahead and make sure the recipient will attend the convention.

2017 Convention Site

Mrs. Drayna reported that the 2017 Annual Convention will be held at Pinehurst Resort. The dates of the convention will be June 13-16, 2017. Lee Lehman will be the Convention Chair.

5. Editor's Written Report (Bob White)

September 24, 2015

Dear ALCA Officers and Councilors:

Editor's Report

The following compares new manuscripts submissions and their disposition/status during the first 9 months of the last three years:

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Rejected</u>	<u>Approved</u>	<u>In process</u>
2015	95	45	34	20
2014	58	20	18	20
2013	42	10	20	12

Receipt of new manuscripts has **increased dramatically** helped by a broader base of contributing laboratories and counties. I believe the quality of our international Editorial Board peer review process has contributed to greater author interest in *JALCA*.

This has facilitated a further improvement in the overall quality of what we publish with greater reader impact. Predictably, processing many more manuscripts has required a 30 percent increase in logged editor time so far this year. We are now rejecting about half of new submissions and it is my practice to usually write a note with critique/suggestions to many of these authors. I want them not to give up on our *Journal!*

I may add a fifth manuscript in some of the winter issues in order to to accommodate June Annual Convention papers, several worthy Review papers and to rein in now too-long

receipt to publish lead times. Year-end *Journal* page count should be similar to last year.

I continue to need Editorial Board volunteers, expert in wet end and organic/collagen chemistry.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. White
Journal Editor

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the Editor's Report as written.

6. Ways and Means Committee Report – Andy Rhein

Mr. Rhein submitted the following written report prior to the meeting:

As of October 5, 2015 our Portfolio was valued at \$191,263. For the year, the Portfolio value decreased by \$22,075.

The following represents the present Asset Allocation Detail:

Cash	\$ 4,192	2.2%
Fixed Income	\$ 56,659	29.6%
Equities	\$111,747	58.4%
Alternative	\$ 6,435	3.4%
Others	\$ 12,230	6.4%
Total	\$191,263	100.0%

Respectfully Submitted
Andreas Rhein

Mr. Rhein reported that there had been several sales and purchases in the account due to the volatility of the stock market. He felt that our representative with Morgan Stanley was keeping on top of things.

Motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to accept the Ways & Means Report prior to the meeting.

7. Technical Committee Report – Beat Schelling

Mr. Schelling was unable to participate in the call but will give a report at the December conference call.

Correspondence Course – Steve Lange had reported that he has contacted the University of Cincinnati again about the merger of our Leather Technology Course with the University. He is waiting for a response.

8. Nominating Committee Report – Steve Lange, Chair

Mr. Lange submitted the following written report prior to the meeting which was circulated to Council:

Nominating Committee Update: October 12, 2015

VP Nominee:

Committee met and came up with a list of several candidates for the position of VP. The first person approached was

honored to be considered for the position but declined due to pressing business commitments and the duration of the ALCA office term. A second person has been approached and is still considering running for office. This person has promised to get back to me with a decision by this coming Thursday.

Councilors:

The committee came up with a list of six people to approach for the Councilor position. Three have already accepted. The fourth candidate and final candidate, I hope, will commit later today or tomorrow morning.

Council was impressed that the Nominating Committee already had made this much progress on their task.

9. RSL Status – David Peters

Mr. Peters reported that this initiative was started approximately one and one half years ago to benefit the membership. Thanks to Steve Lange and several of the ALCA supporting companies, progress has been made on compiling a wet blue RSL List for North America. The list was first submitted to Sarah Swenson with the LWG, and she in turn submitted it to representatives from Nike. Emails were exchanged and the list was revised from these exchanges and then a conference call was held with Mr. Schelling, Ms. Drayna, Mr. Lange, Mr. Peters, and the Nike representatives to discuss the list. Nike was very receptive and encouraged the ALCA to continue with the project.

Discussion followed about how the list was composed. Mr. Peters reported that it was 100% scientific based and as simple as possible. Many of Council asked to see the list as it now stands. Mr. Peters emailed the list to Council right after the call was concluded.

10. New Business

Technical Program Support/Recruitment

It was felt that this item was covered during the 2016 convention discussion.

Salaries

Prior to the call Council was sent a proposed 2016 Budget for the Association. Council discussed the stipend of the Editor as well as the 2016 salary of the Executive Secretary prior to the call. Motion was made, seconded and carried to raise the monthly stipend of the Editor, Robert F. White, by \$200 a month for a total of \$1300 per month. Motion was also made, seconded and carried to raise the yearly salary of the Executive Secretary by 3%. These new numbers will be put into the 2016 Budget and submitted to Council for approval following the call. This was done and the 2016 Budget was approved. It is attached to these minutes.

Account Balance

The cash flow of the Association was discussed. It was felt that no action is needed at this time since the invoices for 2016

dues and subscriptions are scheduled to be emailed out October 16. Council will review this again in the next couple of months.

12. Location and Date of Next Council Meeting

The next council meeting will be a conference call regarding the 2016 technical program, an RSL update and technical committee update on Tuesday, December 8, from 12 to 2 EST. Although it is scheduled for two hours, it was felt it could all be done in one hour.

There being no further business before Council, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Adcock, Executive Secretary

THE AMERICAN LEATHER CHEMISTS ASSOCIATION

2016 BUDGET

APPROVED OCTOBER 15, 2015

Income:

Advertising	\$28,600.00
Copyright Income	1,000.00
Correspondence Course	1,000.00
Dues	39,500.00
Postage & Handling	4,850.00
Reprints/Articles	500.00
Subscriptions	10,000.00
Registration	19,500.00
Sponsors, Advertising & Exhibitors	19,250.00
Dividend	13,000.00
Total Income	\$137,200.00

Expenses:

Bank Wire fee	200.00
Bank Service Charges	240.00
Copyright	660.00
Communication Expenses	
Website	1,000.00
Fax	400.00
Telephone	750.00
Credit Card Processing Fees	3,000.00
Discounts Given	2,100.00
Dues & Subscriptions	480.00
Ezine Journal Monthly Fee	7,140.00
Insurance Expense	
Businessowners Coverage	501.00
Employee Dishonesty	191.00
Worker's Compensation	370.00
License, Fees, and Permits	25.00
Office Expenses: Supplies	1,500.00
Office Expenses: Postage	5,000.00
Office Expenses: Printing & Reproduction	30,000.00
Office Expenses: Rent	8,100.00
Payroll Expenses	
Gross Wages	47,280.00
FICA	2,931.36
Medicare	685.56
Professional Fees	
Accounting	1,200.00
Editor	15,600.00
Membership Development	16,000.00
Rowles Scholarship Fund	500.00
Total Expenses	\$145,853.92
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$ 8,653.92)

Few people realize that Leather Making is the world's oldest manufacturing process, thus the world's oldest industry. Tanning—the process of converting hides and skins into leather—is also the world's first science.

Also, because of the pure craftsmanship involved, tanning may well be the world's first art form.

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Anyone who doubts that a sheepskin has up to 30,000 fibers per square inch has only to count them.

NOTHING TAKES THE PLACE OF LEATHER

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