

Lifelines

Mathilde Fontaine obtained her postgraduate diploma in analytical chemistry in 2012 at the University of Lyon (France). After 2 years in the industry, she has prepared a PhD in analytical chemistry. Her works deals with the determination of allergenic or harmful compounds in leather and textile, especially her main research project is the study of evolution of hexavalent chromium in leather.

Nicolas Blanc, see *JALCA* 109(10), 363, 2014

Jean-Claud Cannot, see *JALCA* 109(10), 363, 2014

Claire Demesmay received her PhD degree from Lyon University (France) in 1992. Since 1994 she is Professor in analytical chemistry in Lyon. Her research interests include miniaturized separation techniques and their coupling with mass spectrometry, advanced functional monolithic materials and their applications in chromatography and sample preparation techniques.

Jan Matyašovský, see *JALCA* 109(9), 314, 2014

Jan Sedliačik, see *JALCA* 106, 8, 2011

Katarína Valachová achieved PhD in biochemistry at the Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology in 2009. Since 2016 she is the head of the Laboratory of Bioorganic Chemistry of Drugs. She is an author of 41 scientific papers and 7 chapters in books and her papers were cited more than 150 times. In 2010 she was awarded to be the best Young Scientist and in 2014 she was declared to be the most successful young scientist up to 35 years at the Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology. Her research is focused on studying free radical degradation of high-molar mass hyaluronan and its prevention by antioxidants or drugs. She is a member of ISHAS - International Society for Hyaluronan Sciences.

Igor Novák, see *JALCA* 111(20), 389, 2016

Peter Jurkovič, see *JALCA* 104, 397, 2009

Peter Duchovič, see *JALCA* 106, 33, 2011

Matej Mičušík, after graduating in 2002 at Department of Physical Chemistry of Faculty of Chemical and Food Technology of Slovak Technical University in Bratislava, did his PhD at Polymer Institute of Slovak Academy of Sciences in 2007, where

he defended the thesis “Micro and nano-composites based on modified fillers” in focus on modified carbon nanotubes as conductive nano-filler in thermoplastic matrices. He specializes now in surface characterization of fillers/nano-fillers, polymers and other materials, modified surfaces and interfaces by XPS method. He has published more than 70 scientific articles with more than 700 citations. He is also co-author of two book chapters.

Angela Kleinová see *JALCA* 111(20), 389, 2016

Ladislav Šoltés achieved the degree of Dipl. Ing. in macromolecular chemistry in 1973. Later, the DrSc degree in analytical chemistry (1993) at the Institute of Experimental Pharmacology and Toxicology at Bratislava, Slovakia where he was active in numerous pharmacokinetics studies. So far, he has published more than 150 scientific papers, which were cited almost 2000-times. Currently, his research activity is focused on the development of original methods to characterize antioxidative and/or free-radical-scavenging properties of prospective drugs. Dr. Šoltés is a member of ISHAS - International Society for Hyaluronan Sciences. In the year 2007 he was awarded to be the Scientist of the year in Slovakia.

Palanisamy Thanikaivelan is a Principal Scientist at Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, since 2002. He founded the Advanced Materials Laboratory which he currently heads. He received PhD in leather technology from Anna University in 2003. He had two post-doctoral stints at Texas Tech University and Rice University, USA under BOYSCAST and Fulbright fellowships in 2005-06 and 2010-11, respectively. He specialized in cleaner leather processing and zero discharge technologies. He currently works on the development of new and advanced materials including nano, bio and composite materials, especially from wastes generated from leather industry for high-value applications in Healthcare, Environment, Lifestyle and Energy sectors. He has over 100 publications in peer reviewed international journals, 50 articles in conference proceedings and national journals and holds a *h*-index of 25 and 20 patents to his credit. His recent innovation on “Waterless Chrome Tanning” has been commercialized to more than 50 tanneries in India. He is a recipient of several National awards and academic honors from CSIR, IASc, INAE, DST, DBT, NRDC, WIPO, USIEF, IEL, IIT-Roorkee, TNASc and FICCI for his innovations in cleaner leather processing, management of solid wastes and developing advanced materials.

S. Silambarasan completed Masters in Biotechnology in 2012. He joined CSIR-CLRI in 2013 as a project assistant in the “Research Initiatives in Waterless Tanning” project. He has studied the effect of different green solvents on the tanning and post-tanning processes. He has interest in the area of development of new biotechnological process for leather industries to address the pollution issues.

R. Aravindhnan, see *JALCA* **106**, 208, 2011

J. Raghava Rao, see *JALCA* **93**, 156, 1998

A. M. Manich, see *JALCA* **106**(5), 176, 2011

Joan Barenys Martinez was born in Barcelona in 1962. He is Chemical Engineer for the IQS (Institut Química de Sarrià) since 1986. He works in TRUMPLER Española S.A., from 1987 where he has held various responsibilities in the technical and commercial areas. He currently holds the position of General Director.

He has collaborated on various research projects and industrial implementation of some of them. The implementation of a comprehensive treatment of chromed leather wastes to separately recover collagen and chromium and its subsequent application in tannery is one of his most important developed projects.

He also collaborated in the implementation of various industrial Trumpler International subsidiaries in China, Mexico and Brazil.

Laura Martinez obtained her MSc in Organic Chemistry from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Bellaterra), Spain. She works for Trumpler Espanola S.A., as head of the laboratory and customer application, taking charge, among other tasks, of the development and optimization of products and processes. Since 2010 she has been responsible for technical and commercial tasks in various European countries.

Joan Lloria obtained his MSc in Sciences (Biology) from the Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, in 1976. He works in the Institute of Advanced Chemistry of Catalonia (IQAC) of the Spanish National Research Council (CSIC) as a Qualified Technician. He is in charge of the Physical Testing Laboratory of the IQAC.

Josep Carilla Auguet was born in Girona in 1952. He is Chemical Engineer for the Technical University of Catalonia since 1972. He joined the Spanish National Research Council at the Applied Organic Chemistry Institute in Barcelona and then was sent to Madrid to be trained in Thermal Analysis Techniques. After returning in 1999 he founded the Laboratory of Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry and since then he has been the Director of the Laboratory at the IQAC-CSIC that offers a great support to Research projects and to the industry. He has a great number of contributions in scientific papers and communications, besides the technical reports to the industry.

A. Marsal, see *JALCA* **108**(11), 434, 2013

Maryann M. Taylor – A Remembrance

by

Carol Adcock, ALCA Executive Secretary

Maryann M. Taylor, past president and life member of the ALCA, passed away on August 14, 2017 after a short illness. She was born in Philadelphia, PA on May 15, 1940. She had been the loving wife of Kurt Stein for 18 years when he passed away in 2014.

Maryann received her BS in chemistry from Chestnut Hill College in 1962. Early in her career she was a Junior Fellow engaged in research on meat and bone meal for the National Renderers Association. She began her federal service by joining the ARS in 1962. She later was a member of the Biobased and Other Animal Coproducts Research Unit and its predecessors at the ARS. She has been active in research on the chemical modification of collagen and the chemical and physical analysis of thru-the-blue tanning technology. Her studies then focused on the treatment of solid tannery waste for the purpose of isolating value-added products and recyclable chromium cakes. Her research also included addressing the functional modification of leather and leather by-products using biochemical technologies. She was also principal scientist for the CRADA research on using an environmentally friendly dehairing method for the leather-making process. In the course of her 53 years at Eastern Regional Research Center she authored or co-authored 117 publications, seven patents, a compendium of chemical and physical data on nine industrial processes for the conversion of raw hides to leather. She gave 2 presentations to regional tanners clubs, 34 presentations at national meetings and four presentations at international meetings. Per her boss, Cheng-Kung Liu, “she served very effectively in critical scientific research and leadership capacities until she retired in 2015.” After her retirement, she continued to work on developing uses for gelatin isolated from leather.

Maryann was a member of the American Leather Chemists Association since 1978. She served as a teller for annual elections (1985), on the Fred O’Flaherty Award Committee (1982), member of the ALSOP Award Committee (1987, 1988, 2009) and Chair of that committee (1994, 1996), a member of the John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecture Committee (1993) and Chair of that committee (1996 and 2008) and a member of the Nominating Committee (2004). She was Chairman of the Uses of Collagen and its Coproducts Committee (1993-1999), member of the Methods and Specifications Committee (1998 to present) and served on Council from 1996 to 1999.

She was the 1991 Alsop Award Winner and the 1991 Prize Paper recipient. In 1999 she was elected VP Elect and served in that position one year, rotating to VP and then President from 2001-2002. She also served as the IULTCS North American Delegate from 1999-



With her ERRC colleagues at an ALCA Convention.

2003. In 2002 she was given life membership in the ALCA as its outgoing president. In 2005 she was the recipient of the Fred O’Flaherty Service Award. Maryann enjoyed gardening, traveling and dining at interesting (off the beaten path) restaurants. She loved to read biographies, mysteries and historic novels, and had appreciation for music from Country to Classical. She extended her passion for science into the school room by judging at the Delaware Valley Science Fair for many years because of her concern that not enough young people were being encouraged to study science.

Here are just a few of the words passed on to me by our members when they learned of her passing:

Robert White, ALCA President 1999 – 2000 and presently Journal editor since June 2006:

I have known Maryann to be a diligent stalwart of the ALCA for my almost 50 years with the Association. She has been exceptionally helpful to this JALCA editor, both as a contributing author approaching an astounding number of almost 100 manuscripts, and as a member of the Editorial Board. Her responses to my manuscript review requests were always enthusiastic, completed on time and of the highest quality. We enjoyed our conversations about how things were at each of our beach properties, located in different towns on the Jersey Shore — frequently it was about weather!

Elton Hurlow, ALCA President 2000-2001:

Maryann was a lovely person who dedicated much of her life to support of our leather industry organizations.

I spent a few years working closely with her as officer of the ALCA and got to know her fairly well. Always friendly, a little shy and always concerned about “doing the right thing, and not upsetting anybody”. She was always willing to help, her body of research work significant, and when we add up the many things she did for ALCA and the leather industry, her contribution was significant.



At her beloved shore.

David Peters, ALCA President 2016-2018:

So sorry to hear the news and makes for a very sad day.

Even though Maryann was small in stature she was a giant in the leather industry. Her contributions to our business will live on, for which we all will be forever grateful. To those who knew her we were all equally impressed by her wonderful disposition, her willingness to engage and her eagerness to learn.

Maryann was a class act, a person who received respect from all she was involved. The ALCA will truly miss her participation but will unquestionably remember her commitment and legacy. Our thoughts are with her colleagues and family.

Joseph Hoefler, ALCA Councilor 2016 – 2019:

This is truly sad news. Maryann was not only an icon in the leather industry but a very kind and nice person to know over the years.

Sarah Drayna, ALCA President 2014 – 2016:

I am truly saddened to hear this. She was a remarkable woman and I know a very dear friend of yours. My thoughts and prayers go out to her family and to you. She will be greatly missed!

Dean Didato, ALCA President 2003 – 2004:

So sorry to learn of this. I did send her a note and hope that she received it and had an opportunity to read it. A great friend to the ALCA who will be truly missed.

Doug Morrison, ALCA President 1998 – 1999 and Nov. 2004 – June 2005:

Maryann was a giant in the research of our leather industry. We shall surely miss her quiet demeanor, her wealth of knowledge, and her friendship to all of us. Her research has been recorded for future generations of leather technologists in our journals and well as numerous other publications. She will not be forgotten and will always be remembered as someone who said “how can I help?”



At her favorite Skytop.

Lori Hyllengren, Co-Chair of the Methods and Specifications Committee:

Maryann was a gentle spirit combined with abundant talents. I will forever miss her fierce determination that hid behind her big smile.

Jim Haggerty, Retired from World Leather Magazine:

I am so sorry to hear of Maryann’s passing. She was a kind and gentle soul who contributed greatly to the ALCA and all she knew.

In his introduction of Maryann as the 2005 Fred O’Flaherty Service Award, Bruce Sharp said the following:

“The recipient is quiet, gracious, compassionate, focused, dedicated, capable, innovative, and genuine and somehow has discovered how to fit 30 hours of LIFE into a 24 hour day. Her contributions to the Association and the Leather Industry World Wide are so numerous and profound that she is most deserving of this High Honor.”

In her typical way in her acceptance speech of this award, she encouraged members to participate in the Association and went into a rather lengthy list of various volunteer opportunities in the Association. Her aim was never to be in the limelight but to help further the cause of the ALCA. This award was given to Maryann at Skytop Lodge, site of the ALCA Convention for five different times. Skytop became one of her favorite places and anniversary trips with Kurt.

Maryann was truly the very embodiment of the ALCA and one of its strongest advocates. Rest in peace, Maryann. Love, Carol

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.

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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