

# Lifelines

**Ze Liang** obtained a Bachelor's Degree in College of Biomass Science and Engineering from Sichuan university (Chengdu, China) in 2020. Since then, he has been studying for a Masters degree under the supervision of Prof. Zhengjun Li with a major in Light Industry Technology and Engineering at Sichuan University (Chengdu, China). His main research interest is in green chrome-free tanning technology.

**Zetian Zhang** obtained a Masters Degree in College of Biomass Science and Engineering from Sichuan university (Chengdu, China) in 2020. Since then, he is studying for a PhD Degree under the supervision of Prof. Zhengjun Li with a major in Light Industry Technology and Engineering at Sichuan University (Chengdu, China).

**Yang Liu** obtained a Masters Degree in College of Biomass Science and Engineering from Sichuan university (Chengdu, China) in 2020. Since then, he is studying for a PhD Degree under the supervision of Prof. Zhengjun Li with a major in Light Industry Technology and Engineering at Sichuan University (Chengdu, China).

**Zhengjun Li**, doctoral supervisor, obtained his PhD degree in 2008, the first trans-century outstanding young talents of Sichuan province, member of the science and technology committee of China leather association, vice President of Sichuan leather association. He is working, as a professor, at the National Engineering Laboratory for Clean Technology of Leather Manufacture, Sichuan University, China. His research interests center on chrome-free tanning leather process and environmentally friendly leather chemicals. Besides, he also focuses on preparation of collagen-based composite functional materials and development of environmentally friendly chrome-free tanning agents.

**Min Jiang** obtained a Bachelor's Degree in the School of Chemical Engineering at Nanjing University of Science and Technology (Nanjing, China) in 2018. She has been studying for the Masters Degree under the guidance of Professor Wei Lin in the College of Biomass Science and Engineering at Sichuan University (Chengdu, China) since 2020.

**Yuanhang Xiao** obtained a Bachelors Degree in Light Chemical Engineering from Qilu University of Technology (Jinan, China) in 2017. He obtained a Masters Degree in the College of Biomass Science and Engineering from Sichuan University (Chengdu, China) in 2020. Since then, he has been studying for the Doctoral Degree under the guidance of Professor Wei Lin in the College of Biomass Science and Engineering at Sichuan University (Chengdu, China).

**Chunhua Wang** received a B.S. in Light Industry Biological Technology (2011), a M.S. in Leather Chemistry and Engineering (2014), and a Ph.D. in Leather Chemistry and Engineering at Sichuan University (2017). Since then, she has been working in Professor Wei Lin's group as a Research Assistant at Sichuan University. Now she is doing Postdoc research at the University of New Brunswick. Her research interests focus on design and developing environmentally

friendly coating materials with antibacterial function applied in leather finishing or other fields.

**Jun Sang** received a B.S. in Polymer Science and Engineering at Yantai University (2007), a M.S. in Leather Chemistry and Engineering at Shanxi University of Science and Technology (2010), and a Ph.D. in Leather Chemistry and Engineering at Sichuan University (2017). Now he is working in China leather and Footwear Research Institute Co. LTD. His research interests focus on leather standardization and leather chemical materials.

**Jiajing Zhou** obtained his PhD in bioengineering from Nanyang Technological University in 2016, under the supervision of Prof. Hongwei Duan. He worked with Prof. Frank Caruso as a postdoctoral fellow at The University of Melbourne (2018-2020), and then worked with Prof. Jesse V. Jokerst at University of California San Diego (2020-2022). In 2022, he joined Sichuan University, where he established his independent research focusing on the synthesis of functional nanohybrids and 3D printing of biomass materials.

**Wei Lin** received her Ph.D. in Leather Chemistry and Engineering at Sichuan University (Chengdu) in June 2000. She moved to University of Science and Technology of China (Hefei) in September 2000 as the postdoctoral fellow for two years in Professor Qingshi Zhu and Professor Chi Wu's research groups. After an additional postdoctoral research associate position in Professor Michal Borkovec's group in the Department of Inorganic, Analytical and Applied Chemistry at University of Geneva during April 2003 to August 2005, she returned to the Department of Leather Chemistry and Engineering at Sichuan University and promoted to Full Professor in June 2006. Her research interests center on environmentally friendly leather chemicals and leather-making process. She focuses on studying macromolecular structure and property of collagen and its interactions with tanning substances, as well as collagen-based biomass materials. She also focuses on the design and development of environmentally friendly non-chrome tanning agents, and the risk screening of the chemicals used in leather-making.

**Yiwen Zhu** is a postgraduate student at Sichuan University, China. Her research work focuses on the development of efficient leather bating technologies. She is under the guidance of Prof. Biyu Peng.

**Jinzhi Song** see *JALCA* **118**(2), 2023

**Xu Zhang** see *JALCA* **117**(10), 2022

**Mengchu Gao** see *JALCA* **117**(10), 2022

**Biyu Peng** see *JALCA* **117**(10), 2022

**Chunxiao Zhang** see *JALCA* **114**, 189, 2019

**Irene Compte** is an Analytical Chemist (Universitat de Barcelona, Spain, 2015) and Leather Engineer (University of Lleida, Spain, 2019). She has been a researcher in A3 Leather Innovation Center (University of Lleida, Spain) and she is currently working as a consultant and project manager in Technical Advice (Spain). She is involved in consumer and product safety of leather and textiles.

**Quim Torras** holds a Chemical Engineering degree (Universitat de Lleida, Spain, 2021) and a post-graduate degree in Data analysis (Universitat Oberta de Catalunya, Spain, 2022). He has been a product developer for the leather finishing sector at Cromogenia

Units (Spain) and a process engineer in an unhairing and tanning leather factory (Industrial Igualadina SL, Spain).

**Francina Izquierdo** see JALCA 112, 81 2017

**Anna Bacardit** see JALCA 101, 284, 2006

**Rosa Cuadros** see JALCA 108, 420, 2013

**Felip Combalia** see JALCA 105, 353, 2010

## Obituary

### Paul B. Flagg

September 4, 1926 – August 22, 2023

Paul Flagg, who built a reputation and business in the U.S. leather tanning industry has died. He was 96.

Tanneries with which Flagg was associated include: Flagg Tanning, Milwaukee, WI; A. K. Salz, Santa Cruz, CA; Wisconsin Leather, Milwaukee, WI and of course, Paul Flagg Leather of Milwaukee and Sheboygan, WI. Flagg continued to consult into the 2000s.

Born Paul Benjamin Flegenheimer in Baiertal, Germany on September 4 1926 to Lion Benjamin and Robertine Bernheim Flegenheimer, Paul with sister Lore, survived three Nazi concentration camps—Lion and Robertine did not.

Paul and Lore were liberated from the third camp, located outside Marseilles, by a Swiss Red Cross nurse who separated the children for medical attention and conveniently never returned them.

Paul then joined the French Resistance. His actions and those of his comrades were recognized with commendations awarded personally by Charles De Gaulle at the end of the war.

Following World War II, Paul returned to Wiesloch, Germany to reclaim what he could of his family’s farm which had been confiscated by the Nazis when the Flegenheimer family were deported in 1940. Amid Germany’s broken post-war economy, Paul made his living trading in the black market rampant at the time.

In 1949, Paul faced the choice of following friends to Israel or accepting a promise of employment from a distant relative

in Milwaukee, WI. He emigrated to America and arrived in Boston aboard the liberty ship General LeRoy Eltinge.

In Milwaukee, Paul began his tenure in leather manufacturing at his relative’s tannery, Eagle-Flagg. Here, Richard Flagg initiated Paul by having him unload fresh hides by hand from railcars in the summer heat. At five-foot-six, Paul remembered finding himself draped in the wet skins that his more seasoned fellow workers tossed over him.

Over the next half-century, Paul would go on to build an impressive reputation and business in the U.S. leather tanning industry.

At Eagle-Flagg, Paul met Cornelia Peterson. In time, Eagle-Flagg became Flagg Tanning and by the end of the 1950s, Paul and Connie were officers in the company. Connie would play a significant role in building Paul’s tanning business. They married in 1960 and were together until her death in 2018.

In 1960, Paul joined A.K. Salz Company in Santa Cruz, CA. By focusing on logistics, quality, paring costs and modernization—he converted Salz from vegetable tanning to chrome tanning—Paul re-established the one-hundred-year-old tannery’s prominence.

Paul returned to Milwaukee in 1970 to run Wisconsin Leather for Spencer Foods. Later, a second Spencer acquisition on the east coast was added to his responsibilities.

By 1974, Paul established Paul Flagg Leather to contract-tan leather in Muscatine, IA and at Reuping in Fond du Lac, WI. The business grew to require its own plant in Milwaukee and later in Sheboygan, WI. Paul Flagg Leather was sold to Marmon Group in 1997. Paul continued to consult into the 2000s.

Paul Flagg died at his home in Mequon, WI just shy of his 97th birthday.

At Paul’s request, there will be no memorial.

Contributions are encouraged to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, or the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine.



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