Life Lines

Mila L. Aldema-Ramos, see *JALCA* **102**, 280, 2007

Renee J. Latona, see *JALCA* **100**, 396, 2005

Laurie L. Fortus is a Biologist in the Microbial Biophysics and Residue Chemistry Research Unit, Integrated Biomolecular Resources at the Agricultural Research Services-USDA-Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, PA. Among other things, she works on 2-Dimensional Electrophoresis for protein profiling, and protein identifications using MALDI-Mass Spectrometry techniques. She obtained her M.S. in Bioinformatics from the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania last November, 2005, and her B.S. in Biology: Microbiology and Ecology Concentration from West Chester University, West Chester, PA in 1997.

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

Venkatasubramanian Sivakumar, see *JALCA* **98**, 238, 2003. The author currently has 17 international, 4 national publications in peer-reviewed journals and is actively working in the area of ultrasonic sonochemistry and diffusion phenomena related to leather.

K. Gopi is an undergraduate with a B.Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from Anna University, India.

M.V. Harikrishnan is an undergraduate with a B.Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from Anna University, India

M. Senthilkumar is an undergraduate with a B.Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from Anna University, India.

Gopalaraman Swaminathan, see *JALCA* **100**, 203, 2005

Paruchuri Gangadhar Rao, see *JALCA* **99**, 475, 2004

Dayanandan Anandan received his M.S. degree in Plant Science (major) and Biochemistry (minor) from Madurai Kamaraj University, India, and his Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry from the Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Madras, India. His Ph.D. thesis was entitled, "Biochemical investigations to evaluate L-carnitine supplementation in experimental hyperlipidemia." In 2000, he worked in enzymatic leather processing as a postdoctoral fellow in the Microbiology Lab of the Central Leather Research Institute, Chennai, India. He then worked for a year as a postdoctoral fellow, University of Louisville, Kentucky, USA, on the effect of L-carnitine on heart lipid peroxidation. Dr. Anandan returned to the USA in 2004 to join the hides & leather research team at the USDA-ARS-Eastern Regional Research Center, Wyndmoor, Pennsylvania, as a visiting scientist, where he renewed his investigations on applications of enzymes to leather processing. Since March 2007, he has worked as a postdoctoral research associate at the Arkansas Bioscience Institute, Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas, in studies on sugar beet root cultures and cell wall protein profiling.

Robert L. Dudley, see *JALCA* **98**, 238, 2003

Hasan Ozgunay, see *JALCA* **100**, 111, 2005

2009 Call For PapersFor The 105th Annual Meeting Of The American Leather Chemists Association

June 18 – 21, 2008

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 & Conference Center, Wheeling, WV on June 18 - 21, 2009.

Abstracts are preferred via email and must be submitted by January 30, 2009 to the Chair of the Technical Program:

Mr. David LeBlanc
c/o TFL USA/Canada, Inc.
8301 New Trails Dr., Suite 100
The Woodlands, TX 77381 USA
Cell Phone: 336 491 2009
Email: david.leblanc@tfl.com

Each abstract should begin with the title in capital letters, followed by the authors' names. The name of the speaker should be denoted by an asterisk, and contact information should be provided that includes an email address. The abstract should be no longer than 300 English words and preferably furnished as a Microsoft Word or Adobe* .PDF document.

Manuscripts based on the presentation, **in publication-ready form,** are expected by May 15, 2009. They should be sent in electronic format (either as an email attachment or on a CD-R) by that date to:

Robert F. White, Journal Editor
c/o The American Leather Chemists Association
1314 50th Street, Suite 103
Lubbock, TX 79412-2940 USA
E-mail: jalcaeditor@prodigy.net
Mobile Phone (616) 540-2469

Presentations at the convention will be limited to 25 minutes. In accordance with the Association Bylaws, papers covering such presentations are to be submitted to the *Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association* for publication consideration. Those papers are not to be published elsewhere, other than in abstract form, without permission of the *Journal* Editor, Robert F. White.

Council Meeting Minutes
American Leather Chemists Association
Grandover Resort, Greensboro, NC

June 19, 2008

Present:

Officers:	William Marmer, Stephen S. Yanek, David LeBlanc
Councilors:	Eleanor Brown, Dave Powell, Gary Rennerfeldt, Steve Lange, Jeff Miller
Executive Secretary:	Carol Adcock
Convention Chair:	Doug Morrison
Convention Vice Chair:	Sarah Drayna

1. Welcome – William N. Marmer, President

President William N. Marmer called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Councilor Rob Harvey was unable to attend due to a work-related conflict.

March 3 and 4, 2008 minutes were previously approved by email.

Results from the Board of Tellers, Dave LeBlanc, Dave Powell and William N. Marmer, were announced. Incoming officers will be Craig Keyser as Vice President Elect, Dave LeBlanc as Vice President, and Stephen S. Yanek as President. New councilors will be Harold Diephouse and George Stockman. Retiring councilors, Eleanor Brown and Dave Powell, were thanked for their service the past three years. The results of the bylaws revisions were announced. It was reported that 93 votes were cast for the amendment regarding the composition of the Nominating Committee, with 83 in favor and 10 opposed. The amendment regarding setting yearly dues had 92 votes cast, with 85 in favor and 7 opposed. Thus both bylaws revisions passed.

The staff of Grandover came in and introduced themselves and their positions. The schedule for the convention was reviewed as well as the current number of room nights for attrition. Some people had checked in and changed their departure date, making the overall room nights lower and adding to the attrition. A final count will not be available until after the convention.

2. Old Business – William N. Marmer, President

Life Members

One candidate for life membership, Pablo Gonzales-Willstatter, was recommended to Council for life membership as he had been a paying member of the Association for forty (40) years. Council unanimously approved his life membership.

3. Editor's Report – Robert F. White

Mr. White submitted the following written report:

Dear ALCA Officers and Councilors:

New manuscripts submissions during the first 5 months of this year slowed (19) compared to the XXIX Congress surge (50) from June through December 2007. This seems to be a historically typical pattern.

Comparing manuscript activity for the 12 month period June through May:

	Received	Rejected	Approved	In process
2007-2008	69	22	32	15
2006-2006	78	34	43	1

This activity supports our four manuscripts per issue plan. I have approved manuscripts tentatively scheduled through the November 2008 issue of the *Journal*.

Mr. Bruce Sharp recently retired from the Editorial Board (EB) after many years of faithful service. Dr. Cheng-Kung Liu, after serving as an ad hoc reviewer for many years, has formally joined the EB. Mr. Jorge Lisnevsky and Mr. David Rabinovich continued to provide timely Spanish translations of the manuscript abstracts.

At its spring 2008 meeting, Council provided specific responses to the reported status of the Publisher Link Project (PLP). This ongoing study of outside publishing resource options/economics is now to include the pursuit of an electronic version of the *Journal* (while retaining our print version). A current status report on the PLP will be separately provided to Council in early June.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. White
Journal Editor

Mr. White was unable to attend this meeting, but he will attend the Sunday morning meeting and discuss the journal management project.

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

4. Technical Committee Reports – Dave LeBlanc, Vice President Elect

Mr. LeBlanc submitted a written report indicating the progress of each technical committee. The goals and purposes of the committees were discussed. It was recommended that Mr. LeBlanc be the interim chair of the Environmental Affairs Committee. He will try to rejuvenate the committee and start a dialogue with the Leather Industries of America. Motion was made, seconded and passed that the interim chair of the Environmental Affairs Committee is David LeBlanc.

Meetings of these committees will be held at noon, Friday, June 20. Mr. LeBlanc contacted all chairs to coordinate the meetings.

Motion was made, seconded, and carried to accept the Technical Committee Report as written.

5. Financial Report –

The council reviewed the Balance Sheet as of March 31, 2008 as well as the Profit and Loss Statement for the same time period.

The Membership and Subscription Report was also reviewed. The ALCA currently has 405 members consisting of 243 active, 42 active life, 3 active life mutual, 14 active life retired, 22 active mutual, 38 active retired, 41 SLTC, and 2 students. A moment of silence was observed for three members, Richard T. Fennig, Bruce M. Gould, and Jon Bouchard, who had passed since the last annual meeting. For 2008, 275 paying members contributed $33,240. There are two new members pending. There is outstanding $985 in dues from the SLTC after subtracting the dues of our mutual members. Subscriptions for 2008 have brought in $14,992 in fees and $4,915 in postage and handling charges. Discounts have been given in the amount of $1,424, making a total of subscriptions and postage and handling charges minus discounts in the amount of $18,483. Nineteen new members have joined ALCA since the last Annual Meeting: fifteen active members, three SLTC, and one student. The bylaws state, “Any member whose dues are unpaid on April 1st shall be dropped from membership.” Accordingly nineteen members were dropped from the membership roles for non-payment of their 2008 dues.

Discussion followed about placing the Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship guidelines and application on the Association’s website. Motion was made, seconded and passed that the funds in budget for 2008 under this scholarship shall be used to implement the changes to the Association’s website. The guidelines and application will be put under the Education section.

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Financial Report as presented.

6. Ways and Means Committee – Dennis C. Shelly, Chair

Dr. Shelly submitted the following written report for the Council:

Investments

The composition of our portfolio has not changed over the past quarter or since my last report to Council. As of June 10, 2008 our investments were valued at $238,664. The year-to-date liquid earnings were $4,696 ($939/month). Our investments, money market and recovered funds are well positioned to endure volatility and earnings pressure as we now see in the market. From our common stocks, four were up and one was down, relative to purchase. All three of our closed end funds were down, relative to purchase. For our preferred stocks two were up and three were down, relative to purchase. Our single corporate bond was slightly down, relative to purchase.

Advertisers and Sponsors

For JALCA in 2008 ten advertisers were obtained. Thank you to Buckman Labs, Chemtan, Elementis, J.H. Lowenstein, Prime Leather Finishes, Union Specialties, Stahl (USA) Inc., Rohm and Haas, Shangqiu Donyon Leather and Lanxess!

Membership Promotion

A dues-recovery telephone campaign was conducted in March and April by Carol Adcock and her colleagues on the council and the ALCA executive. Thanks to Carol and all who participated for this effort!

Respectfully submitted,
Dennis C. Shelly

Motion was made, seconded and passed to accept the Ways & Means Committee Report

7. Annual Meeting

2008 ALCA Annual Meeting

Doug Morrison reported that the number of room nights that the Association has to meet in order to not pay attrition is 240. According to the Grandover, as of this time 221 room nights have been reserved. This would be an attrition of 19 room nights at the rate of $175 per room for a total of $3,325. The actual room attrition will not be known until after the close of the convention.

Doug commended Sarah Drayna for her sponsorship campaign. He reported that Susan Steele was in charge of the social activities but that all events would be self-guided. Lee Lehman is in charge of the sports activities.

2009 ALCA Annual Meeting

The site for the 105th ALCA Annual Meeting will be Oglebay Resort and Conference Center, Wheeling, West Virginia, June 17-21, 2009. Doug Morrison reported that he checked with his contact person at Oglebay, and they will give two more days to decrease the room nights without penalty. Council suggested that the room nights be decreased to 5 for Tuesday night; 85 for Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights; and 60 for Saturday night. Doug will make these changes.

2010 and 2011 Annual Meeting
Sarah Drayna, 2010 and 2011 Convention Chair, reported that she is getting quotes from several hotels. Council decided to keep with the three day format. She will present Council with quotes at the fall meeting.

8. Committee Appointments – William N. Marmer, President

President Marmer announced the following appointments:

2009 Nominating Committee: Nathan Mullinix (Chair), Ricardo Lopez, Doug Morrison
2009 ALSOP Committee: Dave Powell (Chair), Maryann Taylor, David Rabinovich
2009 O'Flaherty Award Committee: Rob Harvey (Chair), Adel Hanna, Eleanor Brown
2010 Wilson Lecture Committee: George Stockman (Chair), Robert Dudley, Milton Barker

After a brief discussion, motion was made, seconded, and passed that the above appointments be accepted.

9. Other Business – William N. Marmer, President

Funds for Speakers
After some discussion, motion was made, seconded and passed that funds up to $5,000 would be set aside to help defray costs for speakers invited to the Association's Annual Meeting from outside the Association. The Technical Program Chair will be in charge of determining who will receive what amount, if any.

Website Update
Modifications to the Association's website have been completed, and all areas for payment transactions are secure.

Office Systems Budget
The Executive Secretary was asked to obtain a quote for the purchase of a new computer, monitor and laser printer for the Association. When the quote is obtained, she will present it to Council for consideration.

Council Meeting Locations
Discussion was had regarding the fall meeting. The sites of Detroit and Milwaukee were discussed. This issue will be decided at the second council meeting on Sunday, June 22.

Papers for 2009 Annual Meeting
Dave LeBlanc asked for topics as well as papers for next year's convention.

10. Adjournment
The next Council meeting will be Sunday, June 22, at 9 am in the Clermont Room, Grandover Resort.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carol Adcock, Executive Secretary

American Leather Chemists Association Annual Business Meeting 104th Annual Convention Grandover Resort and Conference Center, Greensboro, NC

June 21, 2008

1. New Members:

A warm welcome was extended to the 13 new active members who joined the association during the past year along with three new SLTC members and 1 new student member. Congratulations were extended to one member, Pablo Gonzales Willstatter, who had met the requirements and was approved for life status, and five members, Janice Barnes, Helmut Beutel, Helmut Fritz, Heinz Keller, and Nicholas Panagiotakis, who had met the requirements and were approved for retired status.

2. Officers and Council

a. Officer Changes:

At the end of the convention, Stephen S. Yanek moves to President, David LeBlanc moves to Vice President and congratulations were extended to Craig Keyser, who will be the new Vice-President Elect.

b. Council Changes and Presentation of Certificates:

Retiring councilors Eleanor Brown and Dave Powell were thanked for their service and contributions during the past three years and presented with Certificates of Appreciation. The results of the election were announced and the incoming councilors for 2008-2011 will be Harold Diephouse and George Stockman. The new councilors were congratulated, and appreciation was extended to Tellers David LeBlanc, David Powell, and William N. Marmer and to the Nominating Committee, Prasad Inaganti, Doug Robinett, and Doug Morrison, for their service to the Association.

3. Technical Committee Reports:

The reports from the ALCA Technical Committee chairpersons were as follows:

1. Committee on Methods and Specifications, Lori Hyllengren, Co-Chair

The Committee on Methods & Specifications met Friday, June 20, 2008 at the Grandover Resort in Greensboro, NC.

Members present were Stephen Wren, Nicholas Cory, Steven Lange, Adel Hanna, Co-chairs Nick Latona and Lori Hyllengren. Jurgen Christner also participated.

This committee currently has 13 members and we invite anyone interested in methods or specifications to join us.

After a review of the scope for this committee, it was felt that the references to "products containing leather" and "leather products" are not applicable to our purpose, which is leather, not finished goods.

The $300 scholarship established in memory of the late Randy Rowles, co-chair of this committee for several years, will be awarded for the first time in 2009 at next year's convention. The qualification guidelines are as follows:

Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship Guidelines

1. The recipient of the scholarship shall be either a child or grandchild of an ALCA member in good standing;

2. The recipient must currently be enrolled in school having completed at least two years of post-secondary education with a declared major in the sciences or leather-related field;

3. A current college transcript must be submitted along with an application to the ALCA office. Applications can be found on the ALCA website or obtained from the Association office.

4. The scholarship shall not be based on financial need and shall be awarded to the applicant with the highest grade point average meeting all criteria.

5. Applicants may apply more than one year but may only be awarded the scholarship once.

6. Completed applications must be received at the ALCA office no later than February 1 of each year, with the selection of the recipient being made no later than May 1 of the same year;

7. The amount of the scholarship shall be $300 and will be awarded annually with the recipient announced at the Annual Business Meeting of the Association in June of each year.

8. The selection of the Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship recipient will be made by a committee consisting of the Chair and/or Co-Chairs of the Methods and Specifications Committee, the current ALCA President, and three other members of the Methods and Specifications Committee.

The 2009 Selection Committee will be Steve Yanek, Steve Lange, Nick Cory, Steve Wren, Nick Latona, and Lori Hyllengren.

The meeting continued with a dialogue related to the activities of the ASTM D31 Committee on Leather. Nick Cory reported on the latest ballot actions of ISO, of which D31 holds the single vote for the USA. The first ballot concerned the reduction of the allowable amount of hexavalent chromium from 10 ppm to 3 ppm. This reduction is not based on toxicology testing, but purely on test methodology and detection limits. D31 submitted a negative vote, nevertheless the ballot passed and therefore, the official maximum for Chrome 6 is now 3 ppm. The second ballot item dealt with the definition of leather terms, including "Pleather".

We did not see the need for such a term, or the relevance to leather, and therefore submitted a negative vote. Several other countries were in agreement and the ballot failed.

On a similar note, the term "bonded leather" has come under scrutiny by the LIA. A material consisting of only 17% leather fiber with the balance being polyurethane should not be considered leather. Comments have been sent to the Federal Trade Commission.

The last topic of discussion centered on testing and reporting of "restricted substances." The AAFA (American Apparel & Footwear Association) has published a list of recommended restricted substances. Major footwear and garment producers have adopted this list and are requiring their vendors, including the leather suppliers, to provide documentation providing their product does not contain more than the allowable amounts of these substances. Laboratories familiar with leather and capable of performing these tests are limited, and very costly.

Once again, the term "free", (as in chrome free) begs for a definition. Many metals are found in soil and water and it is unrealistic to think that absolute 0 can be achieved for certain restricted metals when processing a hide from a living animal. The committee feels that any definition for "free" should include verbiage to the effect that the substance of concern is not intentionally added but could be naturally occurring in small amounts.

Finally, work continues within the ASTM Committee on methods development for both wet blue and leather. Future studies on soil resistance and barnyard resistance are planned. The majority of the ALCA methods have been converted into ASTM methods with the exception of methods specific to the beamhouse.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Hyllengren, Co-chair

2. Education Committee, Robert Dudley, Chair

The Education committee did not have a quorum though a number of topics were discussed. Robert Dudley agreed to serve as interim chair after completing three years as chair of the committee. The committee agreed that there is a need to update the leather correspondence course. We will seek a retired member of the society who is willing to take on the challenge of updating and editing the supplementary material.

Currently we have only one active student and we have had one student to complete the course this year. We had a number of inquiries about the course, but the inquiries did not result in the registration of new students.

Respectfully submitted
Robert L. Dudley, PhD
Chair, Education Committee

3. Environmental Affairs Committee

Dave LeBlanc reported on this committee. He will become their interim chair and try to get them on the right track.

4. Rawstock Committee, Ed Godsalve, Chair

Joint meeting held with the Research Liaison Committee (RLC) in May; see comments under the RLC report.

5. Research Liaison Committee, Dean T. Didato, Chair

The Research Liaison Committee and members of the Rawstock Committee jointly met Tuesday April 29th- Wednesday April 30th at the USDA Eastern Regional Research Center in Wyndmoor, PA.

Attendance to the meetings was excellent, with twenty industry representatives and an additional fourteen USDA EERC staff for a total of 34. Should more choose to attend next year, we will have to expand the meeting room at Wyndmoor or move to their auditorium. This is a problem that I welcome. Invitations to the meeting were sent to more than 80 industry contacts via e-mail and a full page advertisement appeared on the back inside page of JALCA for several months prior to the meeting.

The purpose of the Research Liaison Committee is: To maintain an awareness on ongoing hides and leather research, to foster research collaboration, and to assist the USDA and other public research institutions in establishing research priorities.

The goals of the April meeting were quite simply:

1) To discuss, clarify and prioritize needs relative to the leather and allied industries.
2) To address questions from USDA scientists regarding desired outcomes and type of work that needs to be conducted.
3) To network amongst the group.

The group reviewed the "Industry Needs" list that was assembled by Dr. Jerome Levy in 2000. This listing was created via a survey and the needs given a rating as far as their relative importance. The feedback was organized into categories such as:

- Hide quality & Beamhouse
- Tanning/untanning
- Properties of finished product
- Leather finishing
- Environmental & Safety

This "industry needs assessment" has been updated every year since during RLC meetings, with changes made to the priority of items and the addition of several new items. It has been an excellent tool to review industry needs and concerns with the scientists at the Eastern Regional Research Center and create alignment with both recent and on-going USDA ARS ERRC projects.

The following are several examples of alignment:

Hide quality & Beamhouse

• Dehairing of hides (Marmer)
  Non-sulfide unhairing
• Brine curing of hides (Hernandez, Ramos)
  Rate of NaCl diffusion
• Role of hide glycoproteins/proteoglycans in leather properties (Ramos)

Tanning and Un-tanning

• Mechanism of tanning (Brown)
  Molecular modeling of collagen-I
  Physical studies of metal ion and organic crosslinking of collagen
• Alternatives to chromium tanning (Brown)
  Enzymatic and chemical crosslinking
• Enzymatic crosslinking and derivatization of proteins from hides, leather, gelatin & wool (Taylor)
  Leather fillers

Test method and Process control (including properties of finished leather)
• Optimization of drying process for chrome free leathers (Liu)
• Nondestructive evaluation by acoustic emission (Lui)

Impregnation & finishing of leather
• Photo and thermal protection of finished leather (Liu)

During the day and a half meeting, we received an update from nine USDA ERRC scientists working on four major research areas. Those areas included Pretanning, Tanning: Approaches to a Tanning Mechanism, By-product utilization & finishing, and Leather Quality. Those presentations were largely a preview of many of the papers presented here during the 104th annual meeting.

USDA Shareholders Meeting, Baltimore, MD (June 10-11th, 2008)

One of the most important items that was discussed during the April RLC meeting was the continued contributions of the USDA ARS ERRC – specifically the Fats, Oils and Animal Coproducts Research Unit led by Dr. Dan Solaiman. The USDA research programs orchestrated by the Agricultural Research Service arm are undergoing a periodic review. As many of you are aware, on May 15th, the U.S. The Senate voted overwhelmingly to approve the five-year, $307 billion farm bill, sending it to President Bush for what was expected to his futile veto. The 81-to-15 Senate vote, like the 318-to-106 House the previous day, attracted broad bipartisan support and received far more than the two-thirds that would be needed to override a Bush veto.

The research projects that the ERRC's Fats, Oils and Animal Coproducts Research Unit has been working on for the past 5 years are covered under National Program 306, entitled "Quality and Utilization of Agricultural Products." NP 306 consists of over 24 individual projects, utilizing 222 collective scientist years and a $78.6 million dollar budget. All total there are 24 USDA locations conducting NP 306 studies. The NP 306 Program constitutes 11% of the projects conducted by ARS. As you know, the projects conducted by the USDA ERRC in Wyndmoor by the Fats, Oils and Animal Coproducts Research Unit make up a portion of this National Program and hides, wool and leather research a portion of that Research Unit.

On March 4-5th, 2008, all of the current research programs covered under NP 306 were reviewed by an independent assessment panel chaired by Dr. Daryl Lund (retired from University of Wisconsin-Madison). Dr. Jerome Levy (Stahl USA and Past President of ALCA) served as a panelist on this group. The assessment panel evaluated the Impact and Relevance of the work covered in NP 306 projects, examining what was stipulated at the onset (1998/1999) with the (162) noted accomplishments also logged by USDA ARS. They scored each research project regarding its importance and relevance and asking the question, "Did the research advance our degree of knowledge in the respective area?" They also asked if the research yielded any social or economic advantage for consumers.

Last week, as a representative of the Leather Industries of America, I attended a USDA ARS National Program 306 Stakeholders Workshop in Baltimore, MD, in which the results of the assessment panel were presented by Dr. Lund. I was very pleased to see that the ERRC, specifically those projects pertaining to leather quality and collagen modeling, were pointed out to the greater than 200 USDA officials, researchers and stakeholders as positive examples of accomplishments with respect to NP 306. This was a solid achievement that received a high degree of visibility.

During the meeting, we – the "stakeholders" - were provided with an opportunity to submit industry research requirements for the next 5-year period. Each industry trade group or 'stakeholder" submitted its individual needs and priority list during breakout sessions. The USHSLA requests included items such as manure removal pre-fleshing, the more rapid uptake of salt – resulting in less usage and a more rapid cure; as well as hide & hide defect identification, and hide fleshing for biodiesel production. Likewise, representing the LIA, I submitted the following:

1) Hide quality and processing issues, including manure damage/removal, defects, seasonal variations, impact of animal husbandry practices, feed program, histology of hide structure – detection of defects via non-destructive test methods.
2) Hide curing – rapid test method for cure validation. Alternate methods of hide preservation without salt (chloride free alternatives).
3) Leathermaking: Tanning and de-tanning processes; gaining a better understanding of the mechanisms involved. Test methods and process control i.e. properties of finished product/leather. Production of stronger leather – improved mechanical properties and leather performance/durability.

Allow me to thank John Reddington, President of the U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association, Ed Godsalve (USHSLA and WE CO., 1991, Inc.), and Chris Mullally (President of Mohawk Trading Company) for participating in the NP 306 Workshop and their support of continued research of the ERRC's Fats, Oils and Animal Coproducts Research Unit. I also wish to thank John Wittenborn, President of the Leather Industries of America, for his letter of support. I similarly wrote a support letter on behalf of the LIA to Dr. Frank Flora, Senior National Program Leader for NP306, imploring the Program 306 oversight committee to further fund the research conducted by the ERRC and their highly valued work that is vitally important to the continued viability of the U.S. hide and leather businesses.

In conclusion, I would like your valuable input to complete a new industry survey of needs. Please locate and complete a survey form. There is a box at the back of the lecture hall to deposit these. The surveys will also be sent out to all LIA and USHSLA members for their input as well. I will collect and compile the data in preparation for the Fall 2008 Council Meeting report.

Finally, I would like to thank Ellie Brown for the many hours of assistance that she has provided, as well as Bill Marmer for his past leadership and most recently Dan Solaiman for his support. For those of you that wish to jot these dates down, our next official meeting of the Research Liaison Committee is scheduled April 29-30th, 2009 at the USDA ERRC in Wyndmoor, PA. Should you wish to receive e-mail notification and updates, be sure to indicate this on your survey form.

Respectfully,
Dean T. Didato
Chairman
Research Liaison Committee

6. Uses of Collagen and Its Coproducts, Eleanor Brown, Chair

Attendees: Ellie Brown (Chair), Renee Latona (Chair-Elect), Mainul Haque, Cheng-Kung Liu, Maryann Taylor, Robert White and guests Gennaro Maffia and Bi Shi

The committee met from noon to 1 PM on June 21, 2007 in the Griffin Room of the Grandover Resort and Conference Center in Greensboro, NC.

The purpose of this committee is to provide information about potential uses for hide byproducts. Inviting speakers to make presentations at the annual meetings generally accomplishes this.

Several presentations on topics of collagen structure, recovery and utilization were made at the 104th Annual meeting. Prof. Shi, in the JA Wilson lecture detailed several novel uses for collagen, Prof. Maffia described the use of nanofibrillar collagen scaffolds in the manufacturing of catalysts, and M. Taylor spoke on the use of modified gelatins in leather processing

Ideas for potential speakers and topics at the 2009 meeting were discussed.
Prof. Maffia was asked to become a member of the committee.

The committee solicits suggestions of knowledgeable speakers or exhibitors in areas of proteinaceous bypoduct utilization from all ALCA members.

Having completed my allotted terms as chair of this committee, I thank the members of the committee, Council, and the entire membership of ALCA for their support of this committee's function and operation. I now turn the chairmanship of the committee over to Renee Latona.

Respectfully submitted.
Ellie Brown
Phone: 215-233-6481
Fax: 215-233-6795
Email: ellie.brown@ars.usda.gov

4. Presentation of Certificates:
Robert Dudley, Chair of the Education Committee, Eleanor Brown, Chair of the Uses of Collagen and Its Coproducts Committee, and Lori Hyllengren, Co-Chair of the Methods and Specifications Committee, were all given certificates of appreciation as their three-year term had expired. Robert Dudley has agreed to serve until replaced. The new chair of the Collagen committee will be Renée Latona. Lori Hyllengren will continue to co-chair her committee.

5. Committee Appointments:
The By-Laws state: "The composition of the Nominating Committee shall be reported to the membership at the annual meeting, and shall be subject to ratification by the active members there present." This motion was made at the Business meeting and the following members of the 2009 Nominating Committee were approved:
Nathan Mullinix (Chair), Ricardo Lopez, and Doug Morrison.

The following committee appointments approved by Council were announced:
2009 O'Flaherty Service Award Committee: Rob Harvey (Chair), Adel Hanna, Eleanor Brown
2009 Alsop Award Committee: Dave Powell (Chair), Maryann Taylor, David Rabinovich
2010 John Arthur Wilson Lecture Committee: George Stockman (Chair), Robert Dudley, Milton Barker

6. Editor's Report: Robert F. White
Mr. White gave the following report:

Continuing good author support has enabled us to sustain the monthly publication of *JALCA* with four manuscripts per issues. The manuscript acceptance rate has stabilized at about 60%. We now are scheduling for the December 2008 issue. The XXIX IULTC Congress/103rd Annual Meeting last June in Washington D.C. generated a small surge of additional contributions, especially Technical Notes based on oral and visual presentations; all of which have been published by now.

Our association, the ALCA, continues in its historical role as the publisher of the *Journal*. At the request of the association president and council we have been in contact with outside professional scientific publishing houses to determine if such resources offer opportunities to increase advertising, circulation, revenues and establish an appropriate electronic version of *JALCA*. We are still in the early stages of this study. However, if any of you have opinions about the importance of supplementing our print *Journal* with an e-*Journal* I look forward to hearing your comments.

I want to recognize the Editorial Board with thanks for their excellent work this past year. John Whiteman and Bruce Sharp retired from the board after many years of faithful service. With the addition of George Stockman Edwin Nungesser and Chung -Kung Liu our Editorial Board now has 13 members.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert F. White
Journal Editor

7. Ballot Results – Bylaws Revisions
Two amendments to the bylaws of the Association were sent out for a vote by the membership. One would allow Council to set yearly dues. This amendment would help in setting dues in a more timely fashion commensurate with the financial needs of the Association. Ninety-two votes were cast with 85 adopting and 7 rejecting. The second amendment would change the composition of the Nominating Committee. It would require that at least 1 past president was on the committee with the rest being either past presidents and/or past councilors. Ninety-three votes were cast with 83 adopting and 10 rejecting. Both amendments passed.

8. State of the Association:
a. Membership Review:
A bar chart of membership since 1999 was shown. The chart reflected a total membership of 407 members, of whom 316 are paying members.

b. Convention Account:
A bar chart was shown indicating the income and expenses for the annual meetings since 2001. The chart reflected a profit for 2007 of almost $27,000.

c. Convention Attendees:

A review of the attendance for 2008 revealed that 15 tanners representing 12 tanning companies, 37 suppliers representing 16 individual chemical companies and 4 individual equipment companies, and 10 research scientists representing 2 organizations were present. Other attendees included 2 ALCA staff, 6 educators or universities represented, 1 press, 4 consultants/retirees, and 18 guests for a grand total of 94.

d. Investments:

A bar chart was shown reflecting the portfolio performance since 2002. The chart compared first quarter earnings versus the average portfolio value.

Dr. Dennis Shelly's written report was included on the slide, which read as follows:

The composition of our portfolio has not changed over the past quarter or since my last report to Council. As of June 10, 2008, our investments were valued at $238,664. The year-to-date liquid earnings were $4,696 ($939/mo). Note in the graphic for program year 2008 that both our First Quarter Earnings and Overall Portfolio Value follow their respective trends since 2002. Our investments, money market and recovered funds are well positioned to endure volatility and earnings pressue as we now see in the market.

e. Sponsorship:

This year's meeting had a three level sponsorship program. They were Gold for a donation of $1,000, Silver for a donation of $750, and Bronze for a donation of $500. There were 11 gold, 3 silver, and 5 bronze donors. A list of the specific sponsors for each category was shown. The association is very indebted to the generosity of all the sponsors.

In addition there were 4 exhibitors and 4 program advertisers. Appreciation was also extended to these generous supporters.

9. New Business:

a. Website info:

Everyone was reminded to go to the Association's website at www.leatherchemists.org for information about the Association as well as updates on next year's convention.

b. 2009 Annual Meeting:

The Association will host its 105th ALCA Annual Meeting at the Oglebay Resort and Conference Center in Wheeling, WV, June 18-21, 2009. The 2009 John Arthur Wilson Memorial Lecturer will be Eleanor M. Brown, Research Chemist/Lead Scientist, United States Department of Agriculture, ARS, ERRC in Wyndmoor, PA. A special thanks was extended to the 2009 John Arthur Wilson Selection Committee: Anton Ela'mma, Tony Khanna and Jerome Levy.

10. In Memory:

There was a moment of silence observed for those members and leather industry colleagues who passed on during the past year:

Richard T. Fennig	February 2, 2007
Bruce M. Gould	December 4, 2007
Jon Bouchard	January 29, 2008

11. Adjournment:

President William N. Marmer called for a motion to adjourn the annual business meeting held at the 104th convention of the American Leather Chemists Association. The motion was made and seconded. Motion carried

Council Meeting Minutes
American Leather Chemists Association
Grandover Resort, Greensboro, NC

June 22, 2008

Present:

Officers:	William Marmer, Stephen S. Yanek, David LeBlanc
New Officer:	Craig Keyser
Old Councilors:	Eleanor Brown, Steve Lange, Jeff Miller
New Councilors:	Harold Diephouse, George Stockman
Executive Secretary:	Carol Adcock
Convention Chair:	Doug Morrison
Editor:	Robert F. White

1. Welcome – William N. Marmer, President
President William N. Marmer called the meeting to order and thanked everyone for his/her contributions during his presidency.

Craig Keyser was welcomed as the new Vice President Elect with Harold Diephouse and George Stockman welcomed as new councilors. Thanks were extended to councilors leaving office, Eleanor Brown and Dave Powell, for their contribution to the ongoing success of the Association.

President Marmer advised Mr. Yanek as the incoming president to keep in touch with the Executive Secretary, be pro-active, keep a balanced program, and bring in new people.

2. Comments on Purpose, Function and Issues – William N. Marmer
<u>Vice President/Technical Session Chair</u>
The technical sessions held during the current convention were reviewed. It was suggested that other groups such as the Leather Industries of America (LIA) and United States Hide, Skin and Leather Association (USHSLA) be contacted to participate more in the convention.

The motion for funding speakers that was passed in the Council Meeting held June 19 was questioned about how it would be funded. Several suggestions were made including funding it from the profit of the prior convention if the overall budget of the Association was met. It was also mentioned that there are still funds in a Certificate of Deposit and savings for the Association that were not used for the 2007 Congress/Annual Meeting. It was felt that there was ample funding for this area for 2009.

<u>Vice President Elect/Technical Committees</u>
The goal of each of the technical committees is to have a paper presented at the next convention.

The committees need revitalization. Craig Keyser will work with Dave LeBlanc to accomplish this goal.

Discussion followed about the Rawstock and Research Liaison Committees. Motion was made, seconded and passed to merge the Rawstock Committee into the Research Liaison Committee.

<u>Editor</u>
Prior to the meeting, Mr. White submitted a written report to Council regarding the journal management project. He felt that there would be very little increase in revenue, but the Association would have to put considerable funds into hiring a managing firm. Discussions followed regarding the proposal submitted by EBSCO. Their proposal would get the *Journal* into libraries of colleges and universities without any initial outlay from the Association. A non-exclusive contract would need to be signed for a two-year period with a 90-day cancellation clause. This would broaden the academic audience for the *Journal*. The Association would need to furnish the *Journal* either by hard copy or a .pdf file. Motion was made, seconded and passed to sign the two-year contract with EBSCO.

A suggestion was also made to start putting the .pdf file of the Journal under the member's-only section of the Association's website. Mrs. Adcock will check into the cost for doing this and report back to Council.

3. Annual Meeting – Doug Morrison

2008 Convention
Mr. Morrison announced that all bills for this year's convention were in order. There was an attrition issue as the room block commitment was 240 room nights and at this time only 216 had been met. Numbers for attrition purposes will not be finalized until everyone has checked out. Comments about the site ranged from very good site to excellent venue.

2009 Convention
Doug Morrison reported that he had received approval from Oglebay to reduce the number of room nights as outlined in the Council's previous meeting. Discussion followed regarding the length of the convention. Motion was made, seconded and passed that Mr. Morrison see if Oglebay would be willing to reduce the length of the convention to the three-day format.

President Marmer then turned the rawhide gavel over to incoming President Stephen S. Yanek.

4. New Business –

During the Annual Business Meeting, Lori Hyllengren, Co-Chair of the Methods and Specifications Committee recommended the other appointees to the selection committee for the Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship Committee. After the convention, Council approved the following committee via email vote:

2009 Randall Rowles Memorial Scholarship Committee: Lori Hyllengren and Nick Latona, Co-Chairs of the Methods and Specifications Committee; Stephen S. Yanek, ALCA President; and Steve Lange, Nicholas Cory, and Steve Wren, three other members of the Methods and Specifications Committee.

5. Major Issues facing ALCA – Stephen S. Yanek

Funding for speakers at future conventions

A motion was passed at the Thursday Council meeting to address this need.

Funding for the electronic web-based Leather Technology Correspondence Course and JALCA. Quotes will be obtained for this project for the fall Council meeting.

Member retention and recruitment

There are several areas for retaining and recruiting members. Areas would include the convention, networking, and use of a digital dues invoice. Steve will elaborate more on this in upcoming council meetings.

Assessing annual convention 2009 and forward

Next year will be a pivotal year for the Association and its Annual Meeting. At this time Council felt it was important to continue the yearly convention.

Digitalization of JALCA

We will start with the EBSCO proposal and trying to put the journal on the member's-only area of the Association's website. An evaluation of these will need to be done.

6. Wrap up/Next Council Meeting

The fall Council meeting will be held in Detroit on September 29 and 30. The two GST representatives will look into a group rate at hotels in the area and if there is a meeting room available at the GST offices.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted by:
Carol Adcock, Executive Secretary