

LIFELINES

Joana Lalueza is a chemist, University of Barcelona 1989. Her research interest cover environmental issues specifically fungi for wastewater. She is lecturer of the Igualada College of Industrial Engineering—"Leather Technology School" (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-UPC, Spain).

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Rita Puig is a chemical engineer with a PhD on organic chemistry from Institut Químic de Sarrià (Barcelona) (1993). Her research interests cover environmental issues, specifically Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) and Industrial Ecology (IE). She is author of the first book on LCA methodology written in Spanish language (1997). She is lecturer and Director of the Igualada College of Industrial Engineering—"Leather Technology School" (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-UPC, Spain).

Elena Martí is Technical Chemical Engineer and Industrial Management Engineer from UPC (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya). He has worked in the leather industry for fifteen years; currently is alecturer of the Igualada College of Industrial Engineering. Her research interests cover environmental issues, specifically in wastewater treatment with extremophil microorganisms.

Joan Francesc Martí is chemist from the University of Barcelona (1982) and has a MSc in management and environmental audits from the Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria (2004). He is lecturer of the Igualada College of Industrial Engineering—"Leather Technology School" (Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya-UPC, Spain). His research interest covers environmental issues, specifically in wastewater treatment.

Nuria Rodríguez is a research technician from the Extremophiles Laboratory at the Centro de Astrobiología. She has been working on the microbial diversity characterization of extreme environments for more than twenty years. She has an extended experience in the physiology of acidic fungi.

Ricardo Amils is full professor of microbiology at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and a member of the Centro de Biología Molecular Severo Ochoa where he is directing the Applied Microbiology Unit. He is a member of the Centro de Astrobiología and is responsible for the Extremophiles Laboratory and director of the Department of Planetology and Habitability. He has an extended experience in the ecology and molecular biology of extremophiles.

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

Cheng-Kung Liu, see *JALCA* 105, 1, 2010

Albert M. Manich, see *JALCA* 93, 233, 1998

Fernando Maldonado obtained his MSc and PhD in Chemistry from the University of Barcelona. In 1967 he specialized in leather technology at TNO Leather Institute in Waalwijk (Holland). He has participated as technical responsible in more than 10 European projects since 1989, related with leather and footwear production and he is author of several Spanish, European and US patents. He was Technical Director of the Spanish Footwear Institute during 24 years.

J. Carilla, see *JALCA* 97, 441, 2002

Merche Catalina studied Chemical Engineering at the Sarrià Chemical Institute (Ramon Llull University) in Barcelona. Her MSc final project was awarded with the Salvador Gil award from the Ramon Llull University (Barcelona, Spain). She completed her PhD at the University of Northampton (U.K.) with a thesis titled "Extraction, characterization and application of gelatin from chrome-tanned leather waste". She worked at the BLC Leather Technology Centre (Northampton, UK) as a technical and research assistant. She presently works as a researcher at the Spanish National Research Centre (CSIC).

Augustin Marsal, see *JALCA* 97, 294, 2002

Pius Onyeoziri Ukoha, a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, University of Nigeria, Nsukka Nigeria. He was a Chief Lecturer in the Department of Science Technology of College of Chemical and Leather Technology, Zaria, Nigeria, before joining University of Nigeria in 2005. He has published a number of articles in reaction kinetics and transition metal complexes including 10 publications of manuscripts about tannins and tanning chemistry in both international and regional journals.

Paul Madus Ejikeme is a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Pure and Industrial Chemistry, University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He obtained a Bachelors Degree in Industrial Chemistry at the University of Port Harcourt and a Master of Science Degree, also in Industrial Chemistry at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He is currently a PhD student at the University of Nigeria, Nsukka. He has published papers in the fields of industrial chemistry, agricultural waste and natural materials for tanning.

Chris C. Maju is a Principal Lecturer in the Department of Leather and Leather Products of the College of Chemical and Leather Technology, Zaria, Nigeria. He obtained a Higher National Diploma from the College of Chemical and Leather Technology, Zaria; a Postgraduate Diploma in Chemistry at the Bayero University Kano and a Master of Science Degree in Leather Technology at the British School of Leather Technology, Northampton, England. He is running a PhD program at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi-Nigeria. His publications in the area of leather and leather technology include studies of alternative tanning materials and analytical methods.

OBITUARY

Dr. Umberto Sammarco



The A.I.C.C. (Italian Leather Chemists Association) informs with regret that Professor Dr. Umberto Sammarco passed away on the 29th April of 2010, at the age of 64. He is survived by his wife, Gilda, and his son Mirko.

Umberto was one of the first graduated to the then newborn Arzignano Leather Tanning School (ITIS Galileo Galilei), during the scholar year 1964/65. It was one of the most brilliant students and after his graduation, he went to the University of Naples where he got his degree in Chemistry. He conserved his love and passion for the leather tanning chemistry, therefore, he moved back first as teacher to the Arzignano Leather Tanning School. Then he took managerial positions in multination leather chemical companies like Trumpler and TFL thanks to his wide chemical know-how and his organisational capabilities, and then in tanneries like the Italian Gruppo Mastrotto where he led the Research Activities.

He was also Professor of the University of Padua where he was a teacher for the Leather Chemical Degree. Finally he was an International Leather Consultant for private companies and for the Italian Foreign Commerce Ministry. But in all these years, he never forgot the Arzignano Leather Tanning School that gave to him the basic know-how of the tanning chemistry. He has always strictly followed the activities and the destiny of this Leather Institute. He was convinced that the success of the Arzignano Leather District was always linked to the increasingly and better qualification of the new generations of the Leather Chemists. As member of Directive Council and

ultimately as Secretary of the A.I.C.C., he organised, together with other A.I.C.C. members, several meetings and seminars to present to the students the evolving “state of the art” of the leather processing. The teachers of the Leather Institute used the opportunity offered by these meetings to keep up-to-date their knowledge.

He published the important book “Tecnologia Conciaria” (Leather Technology) in the year 2007.

This book was recognized as reference text for the tanning sector and also as an educational instrument. The teachers of the Arzignano Leather Institute immediately adopted this book as text-book for all the three years of the leather tanning specialisation course.

He loved football and especially his heart-team, Internazionale Milan, the recent winners of the Champions League.

But he always gave highest priority to the eco-sustainability of the leather making process. He was always saying that all tanning activities cannot exist without putting the health of the workers and of the territory at the first place. We are all sure that his scientific and moral message will remain and will be kept moving forward by all students and people which met him.

Umberto, we will miss you!

—Received from Dr. Giancarlo Lovato, June 1, 2010