

## Lifelines

**Fernando Lado** has a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry, Universidad de la República, Uruguay in 1992 and further studies in Biochemistry in 2000. Since 1992 is working in the leather industry, starting in Curtiembre Branaa in Montevideo which later became in Zenda Leather and finally as part of JBS group. Started as leather technician in Wet-End with several works and developments in this field, then he assumed as Project Manager the development of chrome-free leather in 1998 for automotive OEM. Since 2009 to 2016 was in charge for global operations in Zenda and up to present is responsible manager for finishing and cutting in Uruguay, Mexico and Europe.

**Ricardo Tournier** earned a degree in Chemical Engineering from Universidad de la República, Montevideo, Uruguay in 1968 and a MSc in Chemical Engineering from University of South Carolina, USA in 1971. In 1974 he attended a Dyestuff Course at the Chemistry Department of Turin University and a Practical Course on hide tanning at Instituto "Baldracco," Turin, Italy. Started in the leather industry in 1971 at Lanza Tannery, Uruguay, for 9 years. Later he worked for 20 years as Technical Manager at Paycueros Tannery, a member of SADESA Group. From 2000 to 2012 he was Technical Assistant to the General Manager at Zenda Leather, Uruguay. His works on leather problems and defects have been published in international and regional journals. He is currently working as a freelance consultant.

**Venkatasubramanian Sivakumar**, see *JALCA* 113, 72, 2018.

**Wenjun Long** received his Bachelor's degree in Light Chemical Engineering at College of Biomass Science and Engineering, Sichuan University in 2020. Now he is undertaking his Doctor's degree research at Sichuan University. His research focuses on the relationship between moisture and properties of leather.

**Liangqiong Peng**, see *JALCA* 115, 87, 2020.

**Xiaofeng Jiang** received his Bachelor's degree in applied chemistry at College of chemistry, Sichuan Univeristy in 2020. Now he is

undertaking his Doctor's degree research at Sichuan University. His research mainly focuses on the remediation of chromium contaminated soil and water.

**Faming He** received his Bachelor's Degree in Brewing engineering at College of Biological Engineering, Sichuan University of Science & Engineering in 2018. Now he is undertaking his Master's degree research at Sichuan University. His research focuses on comprehensive utilization of biomass.

**Wenhua Zhang**, see *JALCA* 100, 432, 2005.

**Fitsum Etefa Ahmed** has been a Senior Lecturer at the Ethiopian Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology (EiTEX) at Bahir Dar University since 2015. He graduated from Bahir Dar University-EiTEX in Ethiopia with a Bachelor's degree in Textile Engineering in 2015 and a Master's degree in Leather Product Design and Engineering in 2018. He served as the Head of Leather Engineering Program at Bahir Dar University, EiTEX, from September 8, 2017 to March 18, 2020 and serving as the Director of the Leather Processing & Product Engineering Research and Innovation Center since March 2020. He has mentored and supervised 16 undergraduate students in data collection and analysis for their BSc Thesis, as well as the preparation and presentation of research findings, since 2015. Leather product design, supply chains, waste management and composite materials are among his research interests.

**Rotick K Gideon** has been a Senior Lecturer and Researcher at Bahir Dar University's, Ethiopian Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology (EiTEX) since 2015. He received both his Master's Degree in Textile Science and Engineering in 2012, and PhD in Textile Engineering, Composite Materials in 2015, form Donghua University, Shanghai, China. He has over 17 articles published in reputable journals, and he has supervised more than 13 postgraduate students. Technical Textiles, natural fibers, composite materials, mechanical behaviour of materials are among his research interests.

## Obituary

**Bruce A. Rittel**, 83, of New Bedford, MA passed away, Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at St. Luke's Hospital. He was born a son of the late William and Rose (Yaskinski) Rittel and had lived in New Bedford for the last two years. Prior to that he had spent most of his life in Taunton. Mr. Rittel was a Systems Analyst for AT&T. He also owned and operated his own Tanning/ Taxidermy business along with a tannery consulting and supply business. He was a

member of The American Leather Chemists Association from 1991 to 2011. Bruce was a Navy veteran during the Vietnam War. He was a member of the American Legion and Elks. Survivors include a daughter Linda Cruz of New Bedford, a sister Joyce Carlin, a granddaughter Caroline Cruz, several nieces, and nephews. He was the father of the late Bruce A. Rittel, Jr. and brother of the late Jeffrey Rittel.