

Lifelines

Tamrat Tesfaye (Associate Professor), Scientific Director (Vice President) of Ethiopian Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology of Bahir Dar University studied at UKZN and obtained PhD in Chemical Engineering in 2018. A highly accomplished higher education executive with substantial management experience, Tamrat is a pre-eminent scientist in the field of Chemical Engineering and specifically in Biopolymers and Biomaterials. He has successfully graduated over 36 Masters & 4 PhDs students. Tamrat has published in excess of 113 peer-reviewed papers and has presented in excess of 50 papers at conferences. He is the founder of Biorefinery Research Centre. He serves as Editor-in-Chief of Ethiopian Journal of Textile & Apparel and Ethiopian Electronic Journal of Innovation and Technology Foresight. He is a recipient of various national & international awards & a member of various industry & academic bodies, amongst others the African Scientists forum, African Academy of Sciences & Ethiopian Journal's Editors forum.

R. Karthikeyan currently holds the position of Professor of Leather Technology at the Ethiopian Institute of Textile and Fashion Technology, Bahir Dar University, Ethiopia. He completed his doctoral studies in Leather Technology at Anna University in

Chennai, India, earning his PhD in 2010. Karthikeyan's academic journey includes roles as an Assistant Professor of Leather Technology at Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, an Associate Professor of Leather Technology at the Federal TVET Institute in Ethiopia, and a Visiting Faculty member at both Arba Minch University in Ethiopia and Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in Kenya. With over 30 research publications to his credit, Karthikeyan has also secured five patents from the Indian Patent Office.

Zerihun Teshome please see *JALCA*, **118**(11), 499, 2023.

Xiang-Shuang Wang is an undergraduate student of Jiaxing University, majoring in leather engineering in the Light-Chemical Engineering Department. Email: 3130784992@qq.com .

He-Wei Ma holds a Ph.D. degree and is a Vice-professor at Jiaxing University, IULTCS member, focused on leather chemistry & utilization of leather waste & analytical method, with papers published in Journal of Chromatography A, Journal of Membrane Science, Analytical Letters, Chromatographia and Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association. Total citations beyond 100. Email: ma.hewei@163.com .

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Indrasis Das is a scientist from the Environmental Engineering Department, CSIR- CLRI. He has expertise in environmental engineering, water and wastewater treatment and bio-electrochemistry. He published in 20 peer-reviewed Scientific journals, five book chapters and one Indian Patent. He reviewed more than a hundred manuscripts from high impact journals. He was involved in the analysis of biodegradability and toxicity of different fat liquors in this manuscript.

Akash Bhalla please see *JALCA*, **118**(8), 355, 2023

Ravi Banothu is a technical officer in CSIR CLRI and has expertise in physical and chemical testing of leather.

Jochen Ammenn obtained his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1995 at the university of Goettingen with an emphasis in organic synthesis. After 3 positions in Medicinal Chemistry in Switzerland, Germany and the United States he joined BASF in 2009 for process development and product development of poly-condensates. After the take-over of the BASF leather business by Stahl in 2017, he joined Stahl with the same position.

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Obituary

Robert Joseph Masker, 69, of Atkinson, NH passed away on April 13, 2024 in Boston, MA after a courageous battle with cancer. Bob was born on September 6, 1954 in Gloversville, NY, the son of Bernard Masker and Gene Martin Masker.



He was a graduate of Gloversville High School and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Union College in Schenectady, NY, where he was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity. He worked as a leather chemist, specializing in the Asian market. He joined the ALCA in 1989. Throughout his career, he traveled the globe, most recently spending several weeks each year in China and India. At the time

of his passing, he was employed by Tannin Corporation in Peabody, MA as an International Sales Manager. As a result of his generous and reliable nature, Bob maintained lifelong close relationships in numerous countries.

Bob excelled as a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Elizabeth (Hladik), four children: Stephanie Masker (Terrence Accoo) of Washington, DC; Bobbie Miles (Donald) of Gloversville, NY; Jessica L'Abbe (Jonathan) of Auburn, NH; and Zachary Masker (Laura Primus) of Boston, MA, and sister, Sally Seeley of Delanson, NY. He had seven grandchildren: Anthony, Bruno, Benicio, Gino, Jonathan, Carmita, and Aretee, and several nieces and nephews. Bob is also survived by his beloved dog, Henry, and three "pea brained" cats, Felix, Oscar, and Jack.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, sister Lois, and brother-in-law, George.

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