

AOCS Honored Student Program now in its 'second generation'

During the April 1963 AOCS meeting in Atlanta, Randall Wood, a Texas A&M student, and Leamon D. Williams, a Michigan State University student, became the first two recipients of the AOCS Honored Student Award, then called the MacGee Award in honor of 1961-62 President A.E. MacGee.

Since that time, 138 students representing 53 institutions have been selected for the honor. Among the recipients in 1976 were Charles Welch of the University of Missouri, who was nominated for his award by Dr. Wood, and Rhea L. Craig of UCLA, nominated by Dr. Wayne Bidlack, a 1972 recipient. Dr. Bidlack also had been the AOCS sponsor in 1974 for UCLA graduate student Richard P. Walls who was doing research under the direction of Prof. Paul Hochstein.

The Honored Student Awards program thus has entered its second generation—former winners are nominating current recipients.

Inviting students to AOCS meetings began in 1962 when five Rutgers University graduate students attended the Toronto meeting with funds provided by three private firms. Among those five were future Honored Student recipients R.G. Krishnamurthy (1963), Thomas H. Smouse (1964), and J.A. Thompson (1966).

The formal program recognizing outstanding graduate student effort was initiated through the strong urging of Rutgers Professor Stephen S. Chang, who also served as the first chairman of the award subcommittee. Dr. Chang notes that the support of former AOCS President A.E. MacGee in establishing the program led to the recipients initially being called MacGee Award winners.

"When the program was begun in 1963, the primary motivation appears to have been to attract young scientists to membership in AOCS and to the industries supporting the AOCS," Dr. Ralph Holman wrote in a 1974 report when he was concluding a five-year term as chairman of the award subcommittee.

Based on that premise, the 1963 award to Randall Wood produced big dividends.

"The money I received for an expense-paid trip, including airfare, to the AOCS meeting was not used in that

way," Dr. Wood, now on the Texas A&M faculty, says. "I drove a car and took three of my fellow graduate students with me. They were R.D. Harlow of Tulsa, OK; P.K. Raju, Staten Island, NY; and H.C. Fu, LaJolla, CA. They are all still AOCS members and all are working in areas related to fats and oils."

"We were all inspired and impressed with the meeting and to me it was a most memorable experience. Since then I have attended all the AOCS meetings except for four or five."

Dr. Wood's co-recipient in Atlanta, Leamon Williams, is also still a member as director of food research for Central Soya Company in Chicago.

Dr. Wood's enthusiasm was echoed in many responses from the 81 recipients through 1975 from whom *JAACS* received responses to a questionnaire. Of the 123 recipients from 1963 through 1975, one is deceased and responses were not received from 41 others, either because current addresses were not available or the recipient chose not to respond.

Charles Soliday, a 1974 recipient who is now a post-doctoral research associate at Washington State University, commented, "As I look back on the struggle through graduate school, the award was truly the bright spot of the culmination of that struggle."

Several recipients voiced about the same opinion—that it boosted their self-confidence to have their work recognized by a professional society, or encouraged them to continue in the field.

"I find myself working in an area in which I first became interested at that first AOCS meeting," says Penny Wells, a 1971 recipient and a candidate for the AOCS Governing Board this past April. "At that time I met Virg Babayan and caught his enthusiasm for the dietary potential of medium chain triglycerides. Now, years later, I find myself working on this specific problem and my early acquaintance with him has proven invaluable in terms of expanding my background in this area." Dr. Wells is a research nutritionist with a private laboratory in California.

"I think receiving the award was very beneficial in that it caused me to think more deeply about the chemical aspects

'Last year Mr. Charles Welch, one of my graduate students, received one of the Honored Student Awards at the New Orleans meeting. I was there and so was my major professor, Dr. Raymond Reiser. That made two generations of honored students and three generations of lipids scientists.

'The circle has now been completed because I have returned to Texas A&M University where I received my graduate degree and the MacGee Award. I have stepped into the vacancy created when Dr. Raymond Reiser, a past president of the AOCS retired last July. Who knows, some day one of my students may return to take my position when I retire.'



Randall Wood
Professor of Biochemistry
Texas A&M University

of my work and allowed me to make the acquaintance of others working in this field," says 1971 recipient Dr. Susan Henry, an assistant professor of genetics at Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York.

"For a young person beginning a research career there is a real tendency to be awed or even overwhelmed by the scope of research potentials," said 1975 recipient Dr. Richard McGee, now with an NIH lab in Bethesda, MD. "To have a group of people in one area go out of their way to encourage one to interact with them is a significant positive gesture which tends to make the research seem more human (or at least the researchers)."

Dr. Smouse, a 1964 recipient, wrote to Dr. Holman in 1974 about Honored Students, "As an employer, I like to look them over and talk with them since I may be interested in hiring them. About four months ago, I hired an AOCs Honored Student and this was one of the things I liked about him and helped influence my decision."

Many recipients said they are certain the award was a factor in obtaining interviews and offers from prospective employers, especially at the start of their careers.

Dr. Kenneth E. Beery, a 1969 recipient who is now manager of production application for ADM Corn Sweeteners in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, noted that, "Although my graduate school research and my research at the Army Natick Labs was the only research I have specifically done related to lipids, flavors, and oils, I nevertheless feel greatly indebted to the AOCs for this award and feel most honored and proud that I have received it."

Dr. J.A. Thompson, the 1966 recipient who is now group project leader for International Multifoods in New Hope, MN, notes the award created in him "greater confidence and expectations." Dr. Michael Supran, associate director of food research and special projects for Thomas J. Lipton Inc. in Englewood Cliffs, NJ, says simply, "The award is a point of personal pride and is noted by prospective employers as indicative of my work." Dr. Supran was cited in 1968.

Questionnaire responses were received from 82 former recipients. Of those, 37 are currently members, 45 are not. Of those nonmembers, 28 said they no longer work in the area for which they received an award. Many nonmembers who have remained in their original speciality received an award in medical or medical-related areas of interest.

Of the recipients, about 40 of those cited through 1975 had academic majors that could be classed as "practical-oriented subjects": food science, dairy science, grain science, animal science, food engineering, polymers and coatings, horticulture, or oceanography. Approximately 80 could be classed as "theoretically oriented academic majors": biochemistry, medicine, pharmacology, pathology, microbiology, physiological chemistry, genetics, nutrition, public health, chemistry, or chemical engineering. A check of past recipients with current membership rolls show that 19 of the 43 "practical" students, or 44%, are now members; 27 of 80 "theoretical" students, or 33%, are members; over-all 37% of the 1963-75 recipients are members.

Many recipients have become active in the AOCs. Drs. Krishnamurthy and Smouse, and Northeast Section President David Min are examples of recipients from the practical oriented group who have been active in many AOCs activities. The theoretical awardees have yielded Dr. Wells and Dr. Wood, who was editor of the first monograph published by the AOCs.

The Honored Student Award subcommittee, under directions from the Governing Board, now cites an equal number of applicants in each orientation. Why the preponderance of theoretical winners in the past? Perhaps because federal grants, a prime source of university research funds, are more likely to be available for basic rather than applied research projects. Many persons who wind up in

fats and oils industrial posts are chemistry or chemical engineering majors who don't know they are going to be oil chemists until after they are graduates and hired, suggested James G. Hamilton of Hoffman-La Roche and Earl Hammond of Iowa State in 1974.

The nomination process has not varied greatly from the system set up in 1963 by Dr. Chang. Nomination forms are distributed to professors and universities by the committee. Several past recipients suggested that wider publicity might generate more nominees. Incidentally, former winners work around the world—primarily in the United States and Canada, but also in Japan, Taiwan, England, Israel, The Netherlands, Indonesia, and Germany. Until 1973, nominations could be made by any supervising professor, but in that year the AOCs Governing Board approved a proposal that nominations be made or seconded by AOCs members. The change prompted four professors to join the AOCs that year, Dr. Holman said in 1974.

Nomination forms include requests for identification; academic record; work experience; student's statement on background interest and plans as they relate to future work in the area of fats, oils, and lipids; student's statement on planned thesis research problem; publications; special achievements or other comments; and a letter from the professor evaluating the student. The student may not have received his degree before the awards meeting (some students selected in the past never received a certificate because they received their degrees before the AOCs meeting at which they were to be cited was held).

Nomination forms are distributed to Honored Student Subcommittee members for evaluation and rankings, explained Dr. Norbert Wiech, current chairman of the selection panel. Each member transmits his individual ratings to the chairman. The chairman tabulates the results.

The number of awards each year depends on how much money is donated that year by private industry to support the program (21 contributors provided funds this year). Each winner receives airfare to-and-from the annual meeting, a complimentary registration, an award certificate, plus some room-and-meal money. In recent years, \$75 has been provided for room and meals. Recipients now must also present a paper at an AOCs meeting. Generally at each meeting there is an informal breakfast for the recipients and a luncheon, the latter underwritten by a private firm. In 1963-66, five students received the award each year; in 1969, a record 15 students were cited.

Funds were sufficient this year for six recipients in New York—two from institutions in California, and one each from Nevada, Iowa, Maryland, and New Jersey.

During the program's 14 years, Rutgers and the University of California, Davis, have each produced ten recipients; UCLA, nine; University of Illinois and Purdue, seven each; Minnesota and Michigan State University, five each; and Connecticut, Arizona, Temple, and Vanderbilt, four each, to round out the Top Ten in AOCs Honored Student Awards. ●

The following firms and organizations provided contributions to support the 1976-77 AOCs Honored Student Awards program:

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Esmark Inc. Foundation	

Honored Students

1963

R.G. Krishnamurthy
Kraft Co. Research and Development
801 Waukegan Rd.
Glenview, IL 60025

M.J. McCarthy
Wilson Foods Corp.
4545 Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

H.V. Thomas
State of California
Health and Welfare Agency
Dept. of Health
2151 Berkeley Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

L.D. Williams
Central Soya Co.
1825 N. Laramie Ave.
Chicago, IL 60639

Randall Wood
Texas A&M University
Lipid Research Labs
Dept. of Biochemistry
College Station, TX 77843

1964

George K. Chacko
Medical College of Pennsylvania
Dept. of Physiology and Biochemistry
Philadelphia, PA 19128

J.T. Davis
(no response)

K.G. Raghauveer
(no response)

William T. Roubal
National Marine Fisheries Service
2725 Montlake Blvd., East
Seattle, WA 98112

Thomas H. Smouse
Ralston Purina
900 Checkerboard Square
St. Louis, MO 63188

1965

H. Klausner
(no response)

Andrew C. Peng
The Ohio State University
Dept. of Horticulture
2001 Fyffe Ct.
Columbus, OH 43210

R. Pereira
(deceased)

E. Sheehan
(no response)

Eugene M. Stearns, Jr.
Conklin Company Inc.
Valley Park Drive
Shakopee, MN 55379

1966

Robert E. Anderson
Baylor College of Medicine
Dept. of Ophthalmology
1200 Moursund
Houston, TX 77030

Richard C. Bull
University of Idaho
Dept. of Animal Industries
Moscow, ID 83842

Barry J. Burns
Radioassay Systems Labs Inc.
1511 E. Del Amo Blvd.
Carson, CA 90746

Thomas C. Hutsell
Searle Laboratories
PO Box 5110
Chicago, IL 60680

James A. Thompson
International Multifoods
9449 Science Center Dr.
New Hope, MN 55428

1967

Phillip W. Albro
National Institute for
Environmental Health Sciences
PO Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

R.D. Daftary
ADM Co. Research Lab
4666 Faries Parkway
Decatur, IL 62526

Edward H. Gruger
NOAA, National Marine Fisheries
N.W. & Alaska Fisheries Center
2725 Montlake Blvd., East
Seattle, WA 98112

Donald F. Haggerty
UCLA
Department of Psychiatry
67-378 UCLA NPI
760 Westwood Plaza
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Yoshio Hirano
(no response)

R.B. Iyengar
Unilever Research Lab
Olivier van Noortlaan 120
Vlaardingen
The Netherlands

M. Masuzawa
(no response)

John R. Paulsrud
Hoffman La Roche
Building 86
Nutley, NJ 07110

James G. Quinn
University of Rhode Island
Graduate School of Oceanography
Kingston, RI 02881

S. Ramachandran
(no response)

1968

Raymond B. Bridges
University of Kentucky
College of Dentistry
Dept. of Oral Biology
Lexington, KY 40502

L.J. Cook
CSIRO
P4 Project
PO Box 123
Bogor, Indonesia

Glenn A. Corliss
Shaklee Corp.
1992 Alpine Way
Hayward, CA 94545

Anahid Crecelius
California State Polytechnic
University
3801 W. Temple Ave.
Pomona, CA 91768

Kenneth G. Goodnight, Jr.
Mead Johnson Research Center
2404 Penn Avenue
Evansville, IN 47721

J.K.G. Kramer
Animal Research Institute CEF
Agriculture Canada
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6
Canada

Sherman S. Lin
Anderson Clayton Foods
PO Box 63
Richardson, TX 75080

J.G. MacConnell
(no response)

W.N. Marmor
(no response)

A.M.R. Miller
(no response)

S.L. Rodis
(no response)

S. Stefanovic
(no response)

Michael K. Lipton
Thomas J. Lipton Inc.
800 Sylvan Ave.
Englewood Cliffs, NJ 07632

B.L. Trumpower
(no response)

1969

Z.I. Bandi
(no response)

Kenneth E. Beery
ADM Corn Sweeteners Inc.
PO Box 1445
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405

John D. Castell
Environment Canada
Fisheries and Marine Services
PO Box 429
Halifax, N.S., B3J 2R3
Canada

R.M. Gould
(no response)

E.A. Grellett
(no response)

N. Heidelhaugh
(no response)

Walter J. Esselman
Michigan State University
Dept. of Surgery, Microbiology and
Public Health
East Lansing, MI 48824

Carlos B. Hirshberg
St. Louis University
School of Medicine
Biochemistry Dept.
1402 S. Grand
St. Louis, MO 63104

W.A. May
Fritzche Dodge & Olcott
76 Ninth Ave.
New York, NY

Alfred L. Ochs
University of California
Dept. of Neurology
3rd Ave. and Parnassus
San Francisco, CA 94143

Charles J. Rudolph, Jr.
Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine
Biochemistry Department
3516 Camp Bowie Blvd.
Fort Worth, TX 76118

Thomas M. Santosusso
Armstrong Cork Co.
Research and Development Center
Lancaster, PA 17604

S. Siegfried
(no response)

Robert L. Smallidge, Jr.
Purdue University
Dept. of Biochemistry
W. Lafayette, IN 47907

Alan Waggoner
Amherst College
Dept. of Chemistry
Amherst, MA 01002

1970

Charles W. Conrad
Dept. of the Air Force
92nd Air Refueling Squadron (SAC)
Fairchild AFB, WA 99011

Forrest D. Dryden
University of Arizona
Nutrition and Food Science Depts.
Agricultural Science Bldg. Rm. 123
Tucson, AZ 85721

Robert M.G. Hamilton
Agriculture Canada
Animal Research Institute
Nutrition Building CEF
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6
Canada

A. Hsieh
(no response)

F.R. Jacobsberg
Spillers Ltd.
Research and Technical Centre
Station Road
Cambridge, England

Richard F. Lee
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
PO Box 13687
Savannah, GA 31406

P.R. LeTellier
(no response)

R.F. McGovern
(no response)

Joel Moss
National Institute of Health
9000 Rockville Pike
Bldg. 10, Room 5N-307
Bethesda, MD 20014

P.R. Sampath
S.C. Johnson & Sons
1525 Howe Street
Racine, WI 53402

Myron E. Silver
General Foods
Tarrytown, NY

J. Somor
69 Loftus Place
Loftus, N.S.W., Australia

John P. Wineburg
E.I. duPont de Nemours & Co. Inc.
PO Box 3886
Philadelphia, PA 19146

1971

William H. Baricos
Tulane Medical School
Biochemistry Dept.
1430 Tulane Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70112

Susan A. Henry
Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Genetics Department
1300 Morris Park Ave.
Bronx, NY 10461

M.F. Holick
(no response)

C.S. I
(no response)

Wayne T. Iwaoka
University of Washington
Institute for Food Science & Technology
College of Fisheries
Seattle, WA 98195

M.A. Khuddus
CPC International
S.P. Penick & Co.
540 New York Ave.
Lyndhurst, NJ 07071

S.C. Lee
(no response)

Roger C. Peper
Safeway Stores Inc.
Ice Cream Dept.
1483 124th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98033

Michael A. Reidy
University of Western Ontario
Dept. of Biophysics
London, Ontario, Canada

U. Reiss
(no response)

Mary C. Ritter
University of Chicago
Franklin McLean Mem. Res. Inst.
PO Box 420
950 E. 59th St.
Chicago, IL 60637

P.E. Swenson
(no response)

Penelope Wells
Cutter Laboratories
Fourth & Parker Sts.
Berkeley, CA 94710

1972

David H. Beach
SUNY-Upstate Medical Center
Microbiology Dept.
766 Irvine Ave.
Syracuse, NY 13210

Wayne R. Bidlack
USC School of Medicine
Dept. of Pharmacology
2025 Zonal Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Michael H. Green
Pennsylvania State University
Dept. of Biological Health
College of Human Development
University Park, PA 16802

M. Mackey
(no response)

E. Manley
(no response)

R. Mitchum
(no response)

David B. Min
CPC International
Best Foods Division
1120 Commerce Ave.
Union, NJ 07083

Roberta Richards Owens
Walter Reed Army Inst. of Research
Dept. of Immunology
Washington, DC 20012

D. Richardson
Walter Reed Army Inst. of Res.
Immunology Dept.
Washington, DC 20012

Kulbir Sabharwal
Fisher Cheese Co.
PO Box 409
Wapakoneta, OH 45895

William R. Snyder
Armour Pharmaceutical Co.
PO Box 511
Kankakee, IL 60901

Rex D. Wiegand
University of Missouri
Medical School
Columbia, MO 65201

1973

Gary J. Blomquist
University of Nevada
Division of Biochemistry
Reno, NV 89557

Michael M. Blumenthal
DCA Food Industries
Central Research Labs
45 W. 36th Street
New York, NY 10018

Dennis T. Gordon
Oregon State University
Seafoods Lab
Dept. Food Science and Technology
250 36th Street
Astoria, OR 97103

Gustav Graff
University of Minnesota
Medical School
Department of Pharmacology
Minneapolis, MN 55455

R.S. Hare
(no response)

V. Malshet
(no response)

A. Richard Whorton
Vanderbilt University
Department of Pharmacology
Nashville, TN

Angela K. Young
University of Guelph
Dept. of Nutrition
Guelph, Ontario,
Canada

1974

Dr. Lawrence Paul Aggerbeck
University of Chicago
Dept. of Medicine
950 E. 59th Street
Chicago, IL

Allen W. Kirleis
Purdue University
Dept. of Agronomy
Life Science Bldg.
W. Lafayette, IN 47907

Carlos George Nascimento
Univ. of Connecticut
Dept. of Microbiology
Health Center
Farmington, CT 06032

Patrick O'Doherty
University of Wisconsin
Dept. of Biochemistry
420 Henry Hall
Madison, WI 53706

Elfriede K. Pistorius
Forschungstelle Vennesland
der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft
Harnackstrasse 23
D-1000 Berlin 33
Germany

Charles L. Soliday
Washington State University
Dept. of Agricultural Chemistry
Pullman, WA 99163

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Name _____ Title _____

Firm _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Area of interest _____



Richard P. Walls
USC School of Medicine
2025 Zonal Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90033

Yuri Wedmid
The Hormel Institute
University of Minnesota
801 16th Ave. NE
Austin, MN 55912

Eliot C. Williams
University Hospital
Dept. of Internal Medicine
1300 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53706

James K. Yoss
(no response)

1975

Carolyn M. Aswad
University of California
School of Public Health
405 Hilgard
Los Angeles, CA 90024

Danny T.Y. Chiu
Bruce Lyon Memorial Research Lab
Children's Hospital Medical Center
51st and Grove Sts.
Oakland, CA 94609

Hamsa Thota
Seapak Inc.
Research and Product Development
St. Simon's Island, GA 31522

Jay C. Means
University of Illinois
Inst. for Environmental Studies
Environmental Research Lab
Urbana, IL 61801

Richard McGee
National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute
National Institute of Health
Lab of Biochemical Genetics
Bethesda, MD 20014

Patricia A. Murphy
Michigan State University
Dept. of Food Science and Human
Nutrition
East Lansing, MI 48824

Thomas N. Seyfried
Yale University School of Medicine
Dept. of Neurology
333 Cedar Street
New Haven, CT 06510

William A. Vance
Kal-Kan Foods, Inc.
3386 E. 44th Street
Vernon, CA 90058

1976

(1976 recipients were not included in the survey.)

Steven D. Clarke
Michigan State University

Rhea L. Craig
University of Southern California

Martin E. Hemler
University of Michigan

Murray W. Huff
University of Western Ontario

Rona I. Karney
University of California, Los Angeles

Richard E. Moyers
University of Tennessee

Robert E. Pitas
University of Connecticut

Charles L. Welch
University of Missouri

Samuel H. Yong
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1977 honored students

Six students representing institutions across the country have been selected as AOCS Honored Students for 1977.

The 1977 recipients, titles of papers presented at the 68th Annual Spring Meeting, sponsoring professors, and institutions are:

- Michael Hamrell, "The Activation of a Plasma Membrane Enzyme by Concanavlin A in Polymorphonuclear Leucocytes," Prof. P. Hochstein, Department of Pharmacology, University of Southern California School of Medicine.

- Thomas C. Heaton, "The Effect of Fungal Infection Upon EFA Levels of Safflower Seed," Profs. D.S. Mikkelsen, P.F. Knowles, and J.E. Ruckman, University of California at Davis.

- An-Shun Huang, "A Comprehensive Comparison of the Oxidative and Flavor Stabilities of Sunflower Oil vs. Corn Oil," Profs. O. Hsieh, C.-L. Huang, and S.S. Chang, Rutgers.

- Nancy J. Moon, "Conversion of Cheese Whey to Yeast Oil and Protein," Prof. E.G. Hammond, Iowa State University.

- David M. Tarlow, "Regulation of Lipogenesis in Avian Hepatocyte Culture," Prof. M.D. Lane, Johns Hopkins Medical School.

- John A. Thompson, "Effects of Ethanol Ingestion and Dietary Fat Levels on Mitochondrial Lipids in Male and Female Rats," Prof. R.C. Reitz, University of Nevada in Reno. ●

Mideast business conference in August

Approximately 200 Mideast businessmen and government officials are expected to participate in an international business conference in San Francisco, Aug. 15-19, 1977.

Speakers from 20 Mideast countries will give brief comprehensive presentations on their countries' economic development plans. Discussion sessions will follow. Mideast and North African countries to be represented are: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraw, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, U.S. Emirates, Yemen Sanaa, and South Yemen. Further information is available from the Mideast American Business Company, 420 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10017. ●

Two join Rutgers lab

Dr. Robert J. Peterson and Dr. Chi-Tang Ho have recently been appointed research assistant professors in the Department of Food Science at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

Dr. Peterson received his bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees from Rutgers. Dr. Ho received his doctorate at Washington University and has been working as a post-doctoral fellow in the chemistry department at Rutgers.

Both will be working with Dr. Stephen S. Chang, professor of food chemistry, in supervising and conducting the program on the "Chemistry and Technology of Flavor and Lipids." Each will teach some courses related to that subject.



Dr. Chi-Tang Ho

Dr. Robert J. Peterson

Cargill resin plant operational

Cargill, Incorporated, has announced that the first U.S. commercial plant specifically designed to manufacture polyester powdered resins is now in full operation.

James F. Lawrence, general manager of resins production and sales for Cargill's chemical products division, said the company's Carpentersville, IL, plant uses polyester powdered resin technology developed through years of research.

"The plant will meet current powdered resin needs and be capable of handling the next generation of polyesters and curing agents now taking shape in our research program," he said. According to Lawrence, the Carpentersville plant can produce more than 10 million pounds of polyester powdered resins annually.

Product manager Carmelo C. Schembri explained that a key advantage in designing the plant specifically for powdered resins is consistency of quality. Electrostatically-applied powdered coatings have proved to be safer, cleaner, and more energy efficient than standard paints, Schembri said. Use of dry paints, he explained, precludes the use of solvents, eliminating any carbon-hydrogen discharge.

To assist industrial customers using Cargill powdered coatings, skilled technical service representatives will bridge the gap between researchers and end users, Schembri said.

Cargill's chemical products division operates plants for the production of basic resins in Atlanta, GA; Philadelphia, PA; Minneapolis, MN and Los Angeles, CA in addition to Carpentersville.

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Sorbitan esters of fatty acids

ARTODAN™
Sodium stearoyl-2-lactylate



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PRODUCTS, INC.**

2701 Rockcreek Parkway
North Kansas City,
Missouri 64116
(816) 842-6500
Telex: 4-2565
grindsinc nksc

World Headquarters:
Denmark
Subsidiary Companies:
Germany
England
France
Brazil