

## Chevreul Medal recipients

*At the 1986 World Conference on Emerging Technologies in the Fats and Oils Industry, program cochairman Timothy L. Mounts and arrangements chairman Aldo Uzzan were honored as the 1985 recipients of the Chevreul Medal awarded by the Association Française pour L'Étude des Corps Gras, France.*

### Timothy L. Mounts

Timothy Mounts is at ease whether at the podium or meeting someone one-on-one. He hasn't always been that comfortable with public speaking, however. It was his former boss, Herb Dutton, who taught him the key. "Herb told me that when you get up there, remember that you know more about what you're talking about than your audience. Tell them about *your* research," Mounts recalls, adding, "I don't get up there and try to BS people. I avoid trying to talk about things I don't know."

Mounts, currently research leader of Vegetable Oil Research, Northern Regional Research Center (NRRC), ARS/USDA, is pleased that he has a fulfilling and successful career right in his hometown of Peoria, Illinois. He credits this to "the luck of the draw," and to people influential in his life. Mounts started working under Dutton as a student technical assistant at the NRRC when he was attending Bradley University, also in Peoria. It was Dr. John Shroyer, head of the chemistry department at Bradley at the time, who steered him to the NRRC. Mounts graduated from Bradley in 1959 with a degree in chemistry, a minor in air science (ROTC) and his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in the Air Force Reserve. He then served three years of active duty in the Air Force and, in 1962, came back to the NRRC. His first published work centered on interesterification of vegetable oils for a cocoa butter fat substitute. Subsequently his research focused on the mechanism of the hydrogenation process. During his first 10 years at the center, Mounts specialized in the application of radioisotopes as research tools. In 1968, he earned his masters' degree in organic chemistry with a minor in computer science, knowledge which



Tim Mounts admires "Don Juan's" boat at Cannes harbor.

he applied in helping to set up a large computer center at the NRRC. In 1980, he was named chief of the Oilseed Crops Laboratory, which in a recent USDA reorganization was split into three research units.

Mounts joined the Illinois Air National Guard in 1966. He was a member of the Peoria unit for 18 years—a time commitment of two weeks each year, and one weekend a month. He currently is assigned to the Headquarters, Illinois Air National Guard, O'Hare Reserve Forces Facility, as Director of Personnel with the rank of colonel.

Those attending AOCS' first annual fun run held in Philadelphia know his family roots. There Mounts sported a t-shirt proclaiming "F.B.I., Full-Blooded Irishman." Mounts' family is important to him. He and his wife, Eileen, have three children. Two are out on their own now; their youngest is a

15-year-old daughter. Many regular attendees at AOCS meetings would like to meet his wife; because of her work arrangements, she has been unable to attend most AOCS events. However, Mounts says, he is insisting she come to Hawaii with him for the annual meeting this spring.

Observers at AOCS functions notice that Mounts has fun no matter where he is; he also makes sure everyone else around him has fun as well. He is *not* a jogger, he tells those who saw him run in the fun run; "I'm an exhibitionist," he explains. At the world conference in Cannes, he sneaked out during free time to buy copies of mysteries which he read in the evenings before falling asleep. Mysteries and science fiction are a passion for him. At the French evening at the world conference in Cannes—as at all AOCS social events where there is a band—he could be found out on the dance floor.

Sports are another pastime for him, but chiefly as a fan, not a participant. Teams he cheers for include Bradley University basketball, Peoria Rivermen hockey, the St. Louis Cardinals and the Chicago Bears. While traveling in Italy before the world conference in Cannes, Mounts woke up at 4 a.m. on a Sunday to learn the Cardinals had lost the World Series. "I was crushed," he admits. He has been an avid bowler ("My highest average was 179"), but dropped off the team this year when his daughter started high school. "We bowled Friday nights; I need to be around for my daughter's activities," he explains.

Mounts is active in his Catholic parish. Currently he is a lector at Sunday Mass. He also is a member of the Knights of Columbus, a fraternal, civic and religious organization, and in the local St. Patrick's Society, which organizes an annual parade and large festival. While a bid for a city council seat in Peoria in 1973 was unsuccessful, Mounts has served the community by organizing a neighborhood association and later serving on a community redevelopment commission which disbursed urban renewal funds to improve the city. "I have

always talked like a Jaycee advertisement for Peoria, but I like my community. For all the traveling I've done, I have always felt Peoria is a good place to live," Mounts says.

That he is becoming a world traveler and has gained international recognition are both gratifying and a little awesome for Mounts. Reflecting on his work at the NRRC, he says, "I have gone further in the research field at the center without a Ph.D. than I ever could have imagined." He credits this to the opportunities offered by Dutton and for independent research allowed at the center. Certainly a plus for him have been his research management and leadership skills sharpened through his responsibilities in the National Guard. The opportunity to travel started in 1977, when, as a result of his work at the laboratory, the American Soybean Association in cooperation with the Foreign Agricultural Service asked him to serve as a consultant. These travels have taken him to various parts of Latin America and to Europe. In addition, Mounts has traveled to Europe to take part in AOCS world conferences. After one world conference in The Hague, The Netherlands, he managed to spend a week in Ireland "to get back to the roots." Mounts joined AOCS in 1960. Over the years, he has participated on technical committees and has helped organize short courses and the annual meeting and world conference technical programs. He currently is AOCS treasurer, a position he has held since 1984. He is USDA's representative on the Codex Alimentarius Commission committees on fats and oils and on vegetable proteins.

Mounts says he felt very honored to receive the Chevreul Medal as the fourth U.S. citizen—and second chief of the Oilseeds Crop Laboratory—to receive the award. John Cowan, he explains, was the other laboratory chief to receive it.

"For a little guy from the south end of Peoria, it is amazing to think I have had the opportunity to represent the work at the Northern laboratory and to become world-known," he says, somewhat awestruck.

## Aldo Uzzan

For Aldo Uzzan, the 1985 world conference in Cannes marked the realization of a dream: the first AOCS world conference in France.

Uzzan, born in Tunisia to a mother of Italian background and a father with Spanish roots, reflects pride for France and things French. Visitors to France are directed by Uzzan to eat at the restaurants he likes, to sample the French wines and cheeses he enjoys. Uzzan studied chemical engineering in France, married a French woman, and moved his family to France from Tunisia in 1956 when he took a job with the Institut des Corps Gras (ITERG) in Paris. Even though he has traveled to many places in the world, he feels "the best place will always be Paris."

After receiving his chemical engineering degree in 1949, Uzzan worked for seven years on olive oil analyses, technology and quality control at the National Olive Oil Laboratory in Tunisia. In 1956, he came to work for ITERG as a research chemist. There he worked his way up the ladder to the top. Uzzan first worked in the laboratory, went on to become head of the documentation and information department, then moved up to general secretary in 1972, deputy general manager in 1976, and finally, general manager in 1982. "I was the first general manager who came from the staff, and probably will be the last," he says.

ITERG, Uzzan explains, is a not-for-profit research organization funded by the industry and focusing on fats, oils, margarines, meals, soaps and oleochemicals. The group conducts a collective research program as well as private research on contract. As ITERG's general manager, Uzzan helped create and is responsible for the Groupe d'Étude des Protéines Végétales (GEPV) which focuses on vegetable protein for human consumption. ITERG has research centers in Bordeaux, Pessac, Talence and Marseilles. Uzzan also serves as editor in chief and director of the *Revue Française des Corps Gras*, ITERG's official publication.

Uzzan's background is in both analytical and organic chemistry.

He introduced sensorial analyses to ITERG and France in the 1960s as well as an emphasis on vegetable proteins. He is pleased with work accomplished by ITERG, and points to its research and documentation departments which provide technical assistance to companies, education and training, and scientific public relations. He is also proud of pilot plant facilities in Pessac, a joint operation between ITERG and a sister organization, Centre Technique Interprofessionnel des Oleagineux Métropolitains (CETIOM), to study oilseeds from seed form through processing. ITERG has grown to a staff of approximately 50 people and operates on an annual budget of 12 million French francs, or about \$1.5 million U.S.

Work has been only a part of his life, however. In fact, he will admit, he is more known in France for skills as a marathon runner. In 1977, he was a member of the French team which participated in the World Veteran Athletic Championship in Göteborg, Sweden. For Uzzan, however, there will be no more marathons to run. Due to problems with hip arthrosis, he gave up long-distance running three years ago. This has not stopped him from being involved in sports, however. Uzzan, now 61 years old, is using his knowledge and experience to instruct and coach other athletes. He serves as coach and president of an athletic club—a pastime which he dubs his "main hobby." "It has been very difficult to give up running, psychologically as well as physically, but it helps that I can transfer my enthusiasm to train young people," he explains.

A second hobby centers on cultural activities. Uzzan is active in a non-profit organization which helps develop cultural activities locally, including music, theatre and ballet. Uzzan and his wife live in Creteil, approximately 15 kilometers from Paris. He helped found the local House of Culture and is on its board of directors.

Family, too, is important to Uzzan, who has been married to his wife, Gisele, for 40 years. They have three daughters, two of whom are married. Their third daughter, Corinne, currently is finishing up

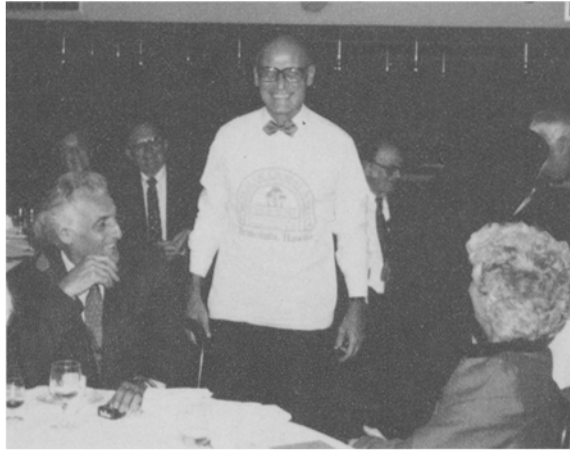
## Meetings

studies in radiology. Gisele, Uzzan says, has been very supportive of his athletic efforts, particularly as she is athletic herself; she is rated as a skilled tennis player and was a gymnastics teacher before their children were born. They have four grandchildren.

Uzzan joined AOCS in 1974 and has served as a session chairman at AOCS meetings in San Francisco, Toronto and New Orleans. He also has served with sister organizations in other parts of Europe.

For Uzzan, sharing knowledge and contributing to society by supporting educational, athletic or cultural activities is an integral part of his life, just as his work has been. "I believe education, generally speaking, and cultural education especially helps one develop a critical sense. Also, I believe that in a democratic life, each one of us has to take responsibility in the life of the city we live in, in the larger world as well. I have tried to take my part of the responsibility—not more, not less."

Having the 1985 world conference in Cannes "made me sincerely



Aldo Uzzan proudly displays an AOCS Hawaii meeting t-shirt awarded to him at Cannes.

proud and happy," Uzzan says, adding, "Of course I was only one small part of the organization that made it happen."

Working to see dreams come true, Uzzan admits, is the most gratifying part of life. "When you have a dream and you wait and work to see it grow, it is so satisfying when you realize it," he says, explaining that when he was 45 years old, he managed to travel to the United States for the first time—a long-held dream. Today, he and his wife enjoy saving up to travel, each year trying to visit someplace new. "We have told our

children we are not saving our money for them, but rather we will spend it to travel while we can. For in traveling, you learn about people, places, culture, all which are worth more than money," he says.

Uzzan has more dreams, one of which he hopes soon to realize. As a first step, he announced that at the end of 1985, he would retire as general manager of ITERG, although he will continue as editor in chief of the *Revue Française des Corps Gras* and general secretary of GEPV. This ending is to mark what he plans to be the beginning of another undertaking: the formation of his own consulting firm. This company is to be named "RAUC" ("R" for network, "A" for Aldo, "U" for Uzzan, "C" for consultant). His aim is to serve as a consultant on edible products, chemistry and the food industry, and to provide outlooks, market studies and communications for the industry.

For Uzzan, there always will be more challenges to take up, more goals to strive for. "Or else you stop living," he says.

AOCS President Joyce Beare-Rogers (left), and program cochairmen Jean-Paul Helme (center) and Timothy Mounts (right) joked informally just before the opening sessions.



A French evening event Thursday featuring plenty to eat and dancing delighted participants. Dancers shown above include Hermann Stage and his wife (shown in the center).

AOCS staff member Gloria Cook assisted registrants at the conference registration desk.

