in memoriam

Norman Hackerman,
Former ECS Journal Editor and University President

Norman Hackerman, former ECS President (1957-1958), died June 16, at the age of 95. Dr. Hackerman joined ECS in 1943. He served as chair of the Corrosion Division (1951), was elected Vice-President of the Society in 1954, and went on to the presidency in 1957 (the year in which the above photo was taken). He received ECS's highest honors: the Olin Palladium Medal Award in 1965, the Acheson Award and Prize in 1984, and Honorary Membership in 1973.

Dr. Hackerman is best known for his role as Editor of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* (JES). In 1950, Dr. Hackerman became technical editor of JES. When the post of technical editor was eliminated in 1969, Dr. Hackerman was appointed Editor, a position he held until 1990—over 40 years of dedication to the Journal. Because of his great enthusiasm for teaching, and his long-standing service as Editor, in 1990 the ECS Board of Directors changed the name of its Young Authors' Prize to the Norman Hackerman Young Author Awards. The prizes are awarded every year to the two best papers published in JES by a young author or co-author. One prize is given for a paper in the field of electrochemical science and technology and the other in the field of solid-state science and technology.

Paul Kohl, the current Editor of JES, wrote a moving tribute to Dr. Hackerman in the Journal's September 2007 issue. He said, "We are all looking for a hero. Someone who performs extraordinary tasks, acts with vision (as if they came back from the future), and always appears when you need them most. One who is strong, one who is sure, one who is bred for the fight. Norman Hackerman was a hero to many. He started like many, doing corrosion and other studies, but then began to do extraordinary things. ... He met every challenge and was there for us all. We need heroes because when the issues get thick or the tasks seem overwhelming, heroes help make the impossible, possible."

ECS Executive Director Roque Calvo, who worked with Hackerman for 10 years during his term as JES Editor, reflected on his profound influence. "It was a special privilege to have worked with Norman Hackerman; he left an indelible mark on me, on ECS, and on the science we support. Given all of his achievements—in his science, his academic leadership, and his contributions to ECS—Norman Hackerman is perhaps the most accomplished person I've ever met."

Dr. Hackerman had an illustrious career outside of ECS as well. He joined The University of Texas (UT), Austin staff in 1945, and went on to become chair of the chemistry department (1952-1962), director of the Corrosion Research Laboratory (1961-1962), and vice-president and provost (1962). He became Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs (1963-1967), and then served as the University's president from 1967 to 1970. At Texas, Dr. Hackerman helped build the school's reputation and research budget. He created a computer-science program and increased the school's libraries while presiding over an era of political turmoil related to the Vietnam War. "He was a visionary who propelled Texas into a new era of scientific inquiry with his commitment to building research capabilities, a man of undiminished energy and vitality," said William C. Powers Jr., President of UT (Austin).

In 1968, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed him to the National Science Board, which helps devise research and education programs for the National Science Foundation; he was chair of the board from 1974 to 1980. President Bill Clinton awarded him the National Medal of Science in 1993. "More than any other American, Norman Hackerman's strong support for investment in basic research was the dominant factor in American science policy over the past 50 years, including the years he served as chair of the National Science Board," said Marye Anne Fox, chancellor and distinguished professor of chemistry at the University of California, San Diego.

In 1970, Hackerman became president of Rice University and a professor of chemistry and held those positions until his retirement in 1985. During his 15 years at Rice he greatly strengthened the faculty of chemistry, improved the campus facilities, cleared the university's deficit, and nearly quadrupled its endowment. When he retired, he was given the title of Professor of Chemistry Emeritus at the University of Texas and was still teaching chemistry there until shortly before his death.

Despite his heavy teaching and administrative load, he actively continued his own research. He was an internationally recognized expert in the corrosion of metals. He was best known for his research on the electrochemistry of oxidation, in particular, and for his contributions to electrochemistry, in general. His work led to the development of a number of processes that retard or prevent corrosion, which proved invaluable to the metals industry. His studies of corrosion in natural gas and sulfur production proved invaluable to the petroleum industry in the state of Texas. In 1956, during a chronic

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newsprint shortage, he obtained a patent for a de-inking process whereby waste-paper was treated with chemicals, heat, and electricity to restore the qualities of the original pulp.

For many years, he was the chair of the scientific advisory board of the Robert A. Welch Foundation, one of America's oldest and largest sources of private funding for basic research in chemistry. In 2000, the foundation created the Norman Hackerman Award in Chemical Research to recognize the work of young researchers in Texas. Dr. Hackerman also served on advisory committees and boards of several technical societies and government agencies, including the Texas Governor's Task Force on Higher Education.

"He was approachable and enormously incisive in cutting through the tangle of bureaucratic issues that always came up," said Norman Metzger, who served alongside Hackerman on the National Research Council. "He was one of those wonderful people who were at once tough, dismissive of nonsense, and enormously kind and thoughtful toward anyone, no matter their station in life."

Dr. Hackerman wrote more than 200 scientific articles and received numerous awards and honors. He was chair of several Gordon Research Conferences, including one on Corrosion (1952) and one on Chemistry at Interfaces (1959). He held memberships in Phi Lambda Upsilon, Sigma Xi, The Faraday Society, Alpha Chi Sigma, and was a member of the Board of Editors for the American Chemical Society's Chemical Monograph Series. He was elected a Member of both the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and was given the Vannevar Bush Award of the U.S. National Science Board. He received the Whitney Award from the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (1956), the Gold Medal of the American Institute of Chemists (1978), and the Charles Lathrop Parsons Award from the American Chemists Society (1987).

Born on March 2, 1912, in Baltimore, Dr. Hackerman was the only son of Jacob and Ann Raffel Hackerman, immigrants from what are now Estonia and Latvia, respectively. His father was a tailor. Dr. Hackerman earned his bachelor's degree at Johns Hopkins University in 1932 and a doctorate there in 1935. Leaving school during the Great Depression, he was unable to find full-time work and so took on three jobs simultaneously, teaching at Johns Hopkins and at Loyola College, Maryland, and working as a research chemist for the Colloid Corporation developing equipment to homogenize milk. It was at Johns Hopkins University that he met his wife, the former Gene Coulbourn, to whom he was married for 61 years and who died in 2002.

In 1941, after a stint as an assistant chemist with the U.S. Coast Guard in New York, he was appointed assistant professor of chemistry at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. When the U.S. entered the Second World War he enlisted in the Navy. In 1944, he became a research chemist with the Kellex Corporation in the Manhattan Project.

Dr. Hackerman is survived by his son, Steve Hackerman; and three daughters, Patricia Berry of Carmel, Calif.; Sally Myers of Temple; and Katherine Walker of Austin; 10 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam

Mark Naiman (1922-2007), member since 1973, Electronics and Photonics.

Pa Soong Lou (1921-2007), member since 1961, Battery.

Marian Stankovich (1947-2007), member since 1974, Organic and Biological Electrochemistry.

Leszek Suski (1930-2007), member since 1993, Physical and Analytical Electrochemistry.

G. Worden Waring (1915-2006), member since 1955, Electronics and Photonics.

Errata

From the summer 2007 issue of *Interface* (Vol. 16, No. 2), we would like to note the following corrections.

On **page 62**, in the list of Corporate Partners, the company name of "Coolohm" was inadvertently misspelled.

On **page 19**, in the list of ECS Division Contacts, for the Energy Technology Division, some of the officers were listed incorrectly. S. R. Narayanan is the Vice-Chair and J. P. Meyers is the Treasurer.