PEOPLE NEWS

Robert A. Rapp Named Institute of Metals Lecturer

Robert A. Rapp. professor emeritus at Ohio State University's department of materials science and engineering has been named The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society's (TMS) 2000 Institute of Metals Lecturer. The Institute of Metals Lecturer and Robert Franklin Mehl Award is presented for leadership in the field of materials science and applications. This honor recognizes an outstanding scientific leader by inviting him or her to present a lecture at the TMS annual meeting on a technical subject of particular interest to members in the materials science and application of metals program area.

Dr. Rapp earned his BS in 1956 from Purdue University, and his MS and PhD from the Carnegie Institute of Technology in 1958 and 1959, all in metallurgical engineering. He was a research metallurgist at Wright Patterson Air Force Base before joining the faculty at Ohio State. Dr. Rapp has been a member of ECS since 1964 and became an ECS Fellow in 1993. He served as an Associate Editor for the ECS *Journal*. Dr. Rapp was a Guggenheim Fellow from 1972 to 1973, and is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He has published over 230 papers and holds 15 patents. ■

Simon Larach • 1922-2000
RCA Color Television and Medical Technology Pioneer

The eminent chemist and physicist, Simon Larach, who was instrumental in the development of modern color television, electroluminescent flat panel displays, and various medical technologies, died this past January.

Born in Brooklyn, NY in 1922, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1943 from the City College of New York. During World War II, Dr. Larach performed medical research on antimalarial drugs, later serving in the Army Air Corps as a Radar Officer. While in the Army, he attended military electronics courses at Harvard and Yale. In 1946, he joined the David Sarnoff Research Center of the Radio Corporation of America (RCA) in Princeton, NJ as a research chemist, where he worked for 41 years, for the last 20 years as a Fellow. In 1955 he was awarded a PhD degree in chemistry by Princeton University. He maintained his affiliation with Princeton University and served as a visiting professor of chemistry during the 1960s and 1970s, teaching graduate students and collaborating on research in electron paramagnetic resonance. Throughout his career, he used his knowledge of both chemistry and physics to solve practical problems facing society and was an early proponent of industry-academic collaboration.

During the development of color television in the 1950s, RCA was faced with the problem of creating red light at the front of color television picture tubes. The phosphors available at the time lacked sufficient efficiency or proper coloring to permit accurate picture rendition. Dr. Larach led the research team that developed a new generation of "rare-earth" phosphors at Sarnoff. The red phosphors he and his team invented, and the sophisticated technologies used to properly apply them to CRTs, are still used in many color televisions and computer displays throughout the world.

In 1974, Dr. Larach became intensely interested in extending his knowledge of color phosphors and wave propagation toward medical technologies. While retaining his primary position as a Fellow at Sarnoff, he was appointed adjunct professor of radiology at Hahnemann University School of Medicine in Philadelphia in 1975, and at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York in 1979. His research team at Princeton invented the modern rare-earth phosphor intensifier screens that overlie film used to record medical X-ray images. By increasing the efficiency with which X-rays expose the film, significant reductions in X-ray dosages became possible, thereby improving the safety of medical X-rays for millions of patients. His work in diagnostic ultrasound helped in the development of modern echocardiography and sonography; he helped found the National Foundation for Non-Invasive Diagnostics that trained hundreds of physicians and technologists in medical ultrasound.

After his retirement from Sarnoff in 1987, Dr. Larach formed a consulting firm, Devtech, Inc. As a consultant to the U.S. government, he helped to develop new phosphors and phosphor technologies for use in "heads up" military aircraft displays.

During 1969-70, Dr. Larach served as a visiting professor of chemistry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel, where he helped to establish a School of Applied Science. He returned to Jerusalem frequently to teach. Dr. Larach also lectured at various institutions in the U.S., Europe, and Asia. He co-designed the United States Solid-State Physics Exhibit at the 1958 Brussels World's Fair.

The recipient of over 50 patents, Dr. Larach's work was recognized with many awards and honors. He was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society and a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists. He served on President Johnson's Commission on Laboratory Safety. He was awarded the David Sarnoff Gold Medal for Outstanding Technical and Scientific Achievement in 1966. He has been a member of ECS since 1955, and he served for many years as an editor of the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society*, and as a contributing editor of the Van Nostrand Science Encyclopedia. He edited the book "Photoelectronic Materials and Devices," and was the author of dozens of scientific and technical articles.

Dr. Larach was married to Sarah Romaner Larach from 1948 until her death in 1986. He is survived by their two children, Dr. David Larach and Richard Larach, and one grandson, Daniel Larach. In 1990, Simon Larach married Nina Cantrell of Great Neck, NY; she and his two stepchildren survive him.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the American Friends of the Hebrew University, 11 East 69th Street, Suite 400, New York, NY 10021, or to the Maryland Food Bank, 241 N. Franklintown Rd., Baltimore, MD 21223. ■

Ed. Note: This notice was submitted by David Larach. The photograph of Dr. Larach (above) was taken in 1966 at the time he was awarded the David Sarnoff Gold Medal award.

M. Thomas Jones

M. Thomas Jones, a member of The Electrochemical Society Fullerenes Group since 1992, died this past January; he was 63. Dr. Jones received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Washington University. His thesis research was done under the direction of Professor Sam Weissman. Dr. Jones went on to develop a successful research career in electron spin resonance, first at Du Pont Central Research Department (1961-66), and later as a faculty member at St. Louis University (1966-69), the University of Missouri-St. Louis (1969-1990), the University of Houston (1990-1995), and finally Kent State University (1995-2000).

Dr. Jones served in various administrative capacities, while carrying on his teaching and research duties over the last 25 years. He was Associate Dean and Acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Interim Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Deputy Chancellor (University of Missouri, Saint Louis), Deputy to the President, Associate Vice President for Research (University of Houston), and Vice Provost and Dean of Research and Graduate Studies (Kent State University). He also held visiting professorships at the University of Sheffield and the University of Groningen.

Very active in the St. Louis Section of the American Chemical Society between 1969 and 1990, Jones served as section chair in 1978, secretary in 1973 and 1974, and councilor from 1981 until he left the area in 1990. He was honored with the St. Louis Award of the American Chemical Society in 1983. During his research career, he published more than 110 manuscripts, 29 of which were based on fullerene research, carried out with his students and post-doctoral students at the University of Houston, and published between 1992 and 1996. He is survived by his wife Patricia; his parents Margaret and Thomas Jones of Mexico, Missouri; his children Jonathan of St. Louis and Jennifer of Redwood City, California; and a sister, Janice Green of Springfield, Virginia. Memorial contributions may be made to the M. Thomas Jones Memorial Fund, University of Missouri-St. Louis, Division of University Relations, St. Louis, Missouri 63121. ■

Ed. Note: This notice was submitted by Karl Kadish and Lawrence Barton.

Paul Howard • 1909-1999

Paul L. Howard of Greensboro, Maryland, died this past December. He graduated from Western Maryland College in 1929 and earned a master's degree in 1932 from New York University, where he also received his doctorate degree.

Dr. Howard worked for Bell Telephone Laboratories from 1930 until 1932, where he developed a mutual inductance bridge for cable measurements. He worked at the Electric Storage Battery Company in Philadelphia from 1935 to 1941, where he set up a special lead plating process for the factory to lead plate over antimony-lead alloy grids for use in all submarine batteries made through World War II.

From 1941 until 1945, he worked for the Bureau of Ships in Washington, D. C., where he developed a program for all types of batteries to meet the U.S. Navy needs. Under this program, batteries were developed for the electric torpedo, Radio Sound, and various other electronic devices. After World War II, he set up a division at the Burgess Battery Company in Antioch, Illinois, to develop and produce their reserve type water activated battery. He was also a consultant to the Atomic Energy Commission. From 1947 to 1948, he was vice president in charge of electrochemical research at Graham Crowley Associates, Inc., in Chicago, where he developed two new battery systems, several detergents, and a new type of water purifier filter.

From 1948 to 1952, he worked at the National Bureau of Standards in Washington, D. C., where he developed a silver oxide/zinc primary battery and directed the development of both the chlorine/zinc battery, and a new Zamboni Pile for high voltage systems known as the "Howard Pile." From 1952 until 1965, he was technical director of Yardney Electric Corp. in New York. In 1965, he organized his own R&D and consulting company, P. L. Howard Associates, Inc., until retiring in 1992. He held six battery patents and a frequent contributor to technical journals. He remained active until his death, as a researcher and in writing proposals.

Dr. Howard joined ECS in 1944 and was very active in the Battery Division and in Society affairs. He was chairman of the New York Local Section membership committee; and vice-chairman of the New York Local Section. He was general chairman of the Washington, D.C. meeting in 1951. In 1949, he organized the Baltimore-Washington Local Section, now called the National Capital Section, and was one of its chairman.

He is survived by a son, Paul L. Howard, Jr.; a daughter, Carol Ann Elliott; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. He was married to Anna Clough Howard, who died in 1981. ■

Ed. Note: This notice was submitted by Sid Gross, with comments by Al Salkind. The photo (above) of Dr. Howard was taken in 1951.

In Memoriam

Martin Krijer Santiago (1964-1999), member since 1998, Corrosion.

Glenn A. Malone (1932-1999), member since 1991, Electrodeposition.

Edward M. J. Mullarkey (1929-1999), member in the 1950s and since 1996, Electrodeposition.

Prof. Dr. Eberhard Steckhan • 1943-2000

The Electrochemical Society and the Organic and Biological Electrochemistry Division announce with regret the death of Pr. Eberhard Steckhan at the age of 56.

Eberhard Steckhan, born in 1943, received the Diploma in Chemistry at the University of Göttingen in 1969. He received his PhD in organic chemistry under the guidance of Prof. H.-J. Schäfer in 1971 at the same university. He was a postdoctoral fellow at the Ohio State University in the group of Prof. T. Kuwana in the year 1971/72. In 1978, he received his "Habilitation" at the University of Münster in the field of organic chemistry. In 1981, he was promoted to University Professor of Organic Chemistry at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Bonn. He served the electrochemical community as editor of a series in electrochemistry in Topics in Current Chemistry, as organizer of symposia in organic and biological electrochemistry, and as adviser of the Organic and Biological Electrochemisty Division.

Professor Steckhan was an internationally recognized authority who made numerous and significant contributions (more than 120 research papers and several reviews and chapters) in the field of organic electrochemistry, bioelectrochemistry and electron-transfer catalyzed reactions. He was highly appreciated as a teacher for his great enthusiasm and competence and for his deep involvement in university life. His colleagues and peers will always remember him as a nice, warm-hearted, truthful, and cultured person. ■