

POLY Awards

Herman F. Mark Award in Polymer Chemistry- Previous Awardees
1976-1996

1996 Herman Mark Award in Polymer Chemistry

Professor James E. McGrath received the Herman Mark Award in Polymer Chemistry at the biennial meeting of the Division of Polymer Chemistry, November 24-27, 1996. The Award, sponsored by the Dow Chemical Company Foundation and presented by the ACS, Division of Polymer Chemistry, recognizes outstanding research and leadership in polymer science.

A native of New York, McGrath graduated from Siena College in 1956, worked in cellulose fiber and film research at ITT Rayonier, then conducted research on synthetic rubbers for Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company while earning a Master's degree in Chemistry. After receiving a Doctorate in Polymer Science from the University of Akron in 1967, he joined Union Carbide Corp. becoming a research scientist/group leader in 1974. Much of his work concerned block copolymer synthesis and characterization. Professor McGrath co-authored "Block Copolymers: Overview and Critical Survey" (1977) which remains a major resource in this field even today.

McGrath joined the Virginia Tech faculty in 1975, was promoted to full professor in 1979, and was awarded the Ethyl Chair in 1986. The National Science Foundation awarded Virginia Tech a Science and Technology Center for High Performance Adhesives and Composites with Dr. McGrath as its director in 1989. In 1993, he was awarded the Outstanding Achievement Award by the Society of Plastic Engineers' Thermoplastics and Foam Division, and the University's Alumni Award for Research Excellence. In 1994 McGrath was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. McGrath also serves on numerous advisory boards in industry and government, including the National Materials Advisory Board of the National Research Council. He is co-author of more than 450 scientific publications and has directed the Ph.D and Master's degrees of more than 80 students. In 1996, McGrath was named a "University Distinguished Professor", the University's highest honor.

Dr. McGrath's recent research is directed toward the synthesis and characterization of high performance matrix polymers and structural adhesives, new composite matrix polymers for possible use in aerospace such as the proposed high-speed civil transport, new high-temperature polymer dielectrics for microelectronic applications, and fire-resistant polymers.

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Harry R. Allcock has been chosen as the recipient of the ACS Polymer Chemistry Division's 1994 Herman F. Mark Award. The award, sponsored by Dow Chemical Co., will be presented to Allcock at the Polymer Division's biennial symposium in November. It consists of a plaque, \$2,000, and travel expenses to the symposium. The award is presented biennially to a person who shows evidence of outstanding research accomplishments and contributions to the advancement of polymer science through teaching, technical leadership, and scientific writings.

Harry Allcock is an Evan Pugh Professor of Chemistry at the Pennsylvania State University. He is one of the leading experts in the field of inorganic-organic polymers and materials derived from them. His early training was in organometallic and physical-organic chemistry, with his B.Sc. (1953) and Ph.D. (1956) degrees received from the University of London. His interest in polymers and materials developed during two postdoctoral appointments and five years as a research scientist at the American Cyanamid Central Research Laboratories. In 1964 he carried out the critical experiments that led to the synthesis of the first stable polyphosphazenes. These polymers have since proved to be the most diverse inorganic-organic macromolecules yet known, with over 300 different polymers now prepared and characterized, some of which have been developed commercially.

Since 1966 he has led a team of coworkers in the Chemistry Department at Penn State that has made many of the fundamental discoveries in the design, synthesis, and structural characterization of polyphosphazenes and related systems, and has been responsible for extending the primary chemistry into areas as diverse as biomedicine, energy storage, communications science, and novel structural materials. Concurrently, his research group has made numerous fundamental advances in the field of small-molecule inorganic ring systems, and has pioneered the use of these compounds as models for the reactions and structures of high polymers.

Allcock has trained more than 70 graduate students and postdoctorals at Penn State. He has played a major role in connecting fields of inorganic chemistry and polymer science, and he has done much to expand the appeal of polymer chemistry through his lecturing and writing activities.

Harry Allcock was the recipient of the 1984 American Chemical Society Award in Polymer Chemistry and the 1992 ACS Award in the Chemistry of Materials. He was a Guggenheim Fellow in 1986-87, and has held numerous endowed lectureships. He is the author or co-author of over 300 publications and four books in the fields of inorganic and organic polymers and materials.

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E. Vandenberg

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M. Szwarc

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W. H. Stockmayer

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C. G. Overberger

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J. D. Ferry

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1982 Herman Mark Award in Polymer Chemistry

H. F. Mark

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M. L. Huggins

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C. S. Marvel

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P. J. Flory