

George A. Abbott, 1874-1973



Dr. George Alonzo Abbott, Professor Emeritus at the University of North Dakota, had a long and fruitful career of service to the State of North Dakota and the science of Chemistry. He was born July 7, 1874, in Alma, Illinois. Dr. Abbott received both the B.S. and M.A. pro merito from DePauw University. From 1896 until 1904 he taught chemistry in high schools in Evansville, Indiana; Duluth, Minnesota; and Indianapolis, Indiana. In 1903, through a contact with Professor Talbot, he received the Austen Research Fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Under the guidance of A. A. Noyes, Professor of Physical Chemistry at M.I.T., he received the Ph.D. in 1908. In this first class of doctorates in chemistry were such notables as Edward Washburn, Charles Kraus and Richard Tolman. Dr. Abbott joined the chemistry staff of the North Dakota Agricultural College (North Dakota State University) in 1909. In 1910 he was appointed Professor and Chairman of the Department of Chemistry at the University of North Dakota. His devotion to teaching and the application of chemistry for the betterment of North Dakota was one of his outstanding contributions. His interests in quality water and in natural products such as lignite, for which North Dakota is recognized, gave him national recognition. For half a century he was the only toxicologist in a wide area of the upper midwest. He found time to do a weekly radio program "Science from the Sidelines" which was broadcast for over twenty years. Professor Abbott was a founder and charter member of the North Dakota Academy of Science. He was a member of the Red River Valley Section of the American Chemical Society, a Fellow of the American Institute of Chemists, member of Sigma Xi, and a charter member of the University of North Dakota Phi Beta Kappa chapter. Dr. Abbott retired from administration in 1948 and from teaching in 1952. He continued toxicological work until 1970.

The George A. Abbott Lectureship was established by gifts from the University of North Dakota Alumni.

PREVIOUS GEORGE A. ABBOTT LECTURERS

1963	Dr. Nelson Leonard, University of Illinois	1985	Dr. Harry B. Gray, California Institute of Technology
1964	Dr. Robert West, University of Wisconsin	1986	Dr. Allen J. Bard, University of Texas at Austin
1965	Dr. Robert Parry, University of Michigan	1987	Dr. William J. Bailey, University of Maryland
1966	Dr. Ralph G. Pearson, Northwestern University	1988	Dr. Mark S. Wrighton, Mass. Institute of Technology
1967	Dr. Harold J. Bernstein, N.R.C. Ottawa, Canada	1989	Dr. Peter B. Dervan, California Institute of Technology
1968	Dr. Edward L. King, University of Colorado	1990	Dr. Robert H. Grubbs, California Institute of Technology
1969	Dr. David N. Hume, Mass. Institute of Technology	1991	Dr. Andrew Streitwieser, Univ. of California-Berkeley
1970	Dr. Ronald Breslow, Columbia University	1992	Dr. Marye Anne Fox, University of Texas at Austin
1971	Dr. Arnold C. Wahl, Argonne Laboratory	1994	Dr. Kendall N. Houk, University of California, LA
1972	Dr. John L. Margrave, Rice University	1995	Dr. Edward Yeung, Iowa State University
1973	Dr. Cheves Walling, University of Utah	1997	Dr. Henry F. Schaefer, III, University of Georgia
1974	Dr. Fred McLafferty, Cornell University	1999	Dr. Tobin J. Marks, Northwestern University
1975	Dr. Daryle H. Busch, Ohio State University	2000	Dr. Alexander Pines, University of California-Berkeley
1976	Dr. Hans H. Jaffe, University of Cincinnati	2001	Dr. Paul A. Wender, Stanford University
1977	Dr. Roald Hoffmann, Cornell University	2002	Dr. Samuel H. Gellman, University of Wisconsin
1978	Dr. H.C. Brown, Purdue University	2003	Dr. Victor J. Hruby, University of Arizona
1979	Dr. Leo A. Paquette, Ohio State University	2004	Dr. William H. Miller, University of California-Berkeley
1980	Dr. Robert E. Sievers, University of Colorado	2005	Dr. Barry K. Carpenter, Cornell University
1981	Dr. Dietmar Seyferth, Mass. Institute of Technology	2006	Dr. Malcom Chisholm, The Ohio State University
1982	Dr. Koji Nakanishi, Columbia University	2007	Dr. Catherine Fenselau, University of Maryland
1983	Dr. Melvin Calvin, University of California-Berkeley	2008	Dr. Richard J. Saykally, University of California-Berkeley
1984	Dr. Gabor Somorjai, University of California-Berkeley	2009	Dr. Richard N. Zare, Stanford University



CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

The 2010 Abbott Chemistry Lectures

April 29th & 30th, 2010

Dr. Michael P. Doyle

Professor

University of Maryland



Research Interests

Design and development of transition metal catalysts capable of high selectivity in organic chemical transformations and on oxidation reactions. Focus is on applications that are of biological and materials interest.

Professional Experience

- Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Maryland, 2003-present
- Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Arizona, 1997-2003
- President, Research Corporation, Tucson, AZ, 2002; Vice President, Research Corporation, 1997-2001
- Dr. D. R. Semmes Distinguished Professor, Department of Chemistry, Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, 1984-1997
- Assistant (1968), Associate (1971), Full (1974), Kenneth G. Herrick Professor (1982), Hope College, Holland, MI, 1968-1984
- Guest Professor, Nankai University (2004-present), Tianjin, PRC

Thursday, April 29th, 7:00 PM

"Challenges to education in the sciences in a time of change."

Friday, April 30th, 12:00 PM

"The Magic of Dirhodium."

Major Recognitions and Honors

- Edward Leete Award (2007), ACS Division of Organic Chemistry;
- Arthur C. Cope Senior Scholar Award (2006) from the American Chemical Society;
- Outstanding Chemistry Alumni Award, Iowa State University (2006);
- Harry and Carol Moser Award (2005), Santa Clara Valley Section of the ACS;
- Merit Award, National Institutes of Health (2003);
- ACS George C. Pimentel Award in Chemical Education (2002);
- Gilman Research Award (2001) from Iowa State University;
- Paul G. Gassman Distinguished Service Award (1998), ACS Division of Organic Chemistry;
- Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Invitation Fellowship (1996);
- James Flack Norris Award for Outstanding Achievements in the Teaching of Chemistry (1995), Northeastern Section of the ACS; Alexander von Humboldt Senior Research Award for U.S. Scientists (1995);
- Elected Fellow of AAAS (1995);
- D.Sc. Honoris Causa of the Russian Academy of Sciences (1994);
- ACS Award for Research at Undergraduate Institutions (1988);
- Chemical Manufacturers Association Catalyst Award (1982);
- Camille & Henry Dreyfus Foundation Teacher-Scholar Award (1973).