

Chapter 8

Notable Achievements

The Chemistry Department over the years sponsors notable events and celebrates and recognizes achievements by its faculty and alumni. Included in this chapter are sections about faculty awards, the Crowdle Award and the Gassman Lecture Series.

Chemistry Department Faculty Honors

Koessler Distinguished Teaching Award

In 1977, the College established a faculty recognition award. The award was initiated by a prominent Trustee and benefactor of the College and named in his honor.

The Kenneth L. Koessler '29 Distinguished Faculty Award is presented annually to a faculty member for "excellence in teaching, concern for students, scholarship and service to the college."

The first faculty award was presented to Paul J. McCarthy S.J. Over the years, thirty-eight faculty members have been recognized. Significantly, five faculty from the Chemistry Department have received this honor.

Year	Recipient
1977	Paul J. McCarthy S.J.
1981	Frank J. Dinan
1983	Joseph F. Bieron
1984	James A. Leone
2010	Mariusz Kozik

College of Arts and Sciences Award

More recently, the college initiated faculty awards in the various academic areas.

In the College of Arts and Sciences, five awards for faculty teaching has been presented since 2008. Members of the Chemistry Department who have been recognized are:

2008	Frank J. Dinan
2009	Mary O'Sullivan

A similar award for faculty service has been presented five times and in 2008 the recipient was Mariusz Kozik.

Schoellkopf Medal

The Western New York Section of the American Chemical Society every year since 1931 presents the Schoellkopf Medal to recognize a chemist from the section. The guidelines for the jury of past WNY Section Chairpersons read...

"The award may be made by the Jury, as set forth below, to the person who shall have made such contribution to the advancement of any of the objects, purposes, or activities now

or hereafter fostered or promoted by the SOCIETY or its successors as to merit such award. Such contribution may consist of, but shall not be limited to, (a) a discovery pertaining to chemistry, (b) an invention of a plan, process, or device useful, valuable, or significant in the theory or practice of chemistry, and/or (c) distinguished services rendered to the Section or its successor. More specifically, the award shall, if possible, be made to someone who, while resident in the confines of the Section, has either published an outstanding piece of chemical research, or disclosed a valuable or significant process in a patent, or has made some particularly able contribution to the welfare of one's own corporation, which contribution may, perhaps necessarily, be held secret or partly confidential by the employers of the awardee, or the award may be made in recognition of unusually able chemical directorship in outlining industrial problems and planning methods of their solution. It is the sense of this bylaw that the foregoing description of the character of the contribution for which the award shall be made shall be liberally construed."

Two former faculty members of the Chemistry Department have received the award.

Schoellkopf Medal Recipients

1983	Raymond Annino
1993	Joseph F. Bieron

JAMES H. CROWDLE AWARD FOR DISTINCTION IN CHEMISTRY



Professor James H. Crowdle was an outstanding member of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Canisius College for over forty years, most of which he served as chairman. He was proud of having taught over 10,000 classroom students, freshman through graduate level, and he directed dozens of graduate research theses. He was

simultaneously a powerful force in the creation of many campus-wide institutions; he co-founded [The Griffin](#) and he founded the [DiGamma Honor Society](#).

This award was conceived shortly after Dr. Crowdle's retirement and death in 1966. Its purpose is to recognize the achievements of the best graduates of this department and to honor the memory of one of our most respected colleagues. Faculty and students of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry select awardees based on their significant contributions to the fields of chemistry or biochemistry.

The Chemistry Department acting on a recommendation by R. Stanton created the Crowdle Award in 1969 to honor the memory of Dr. James Crowdle, one of the most prominent faculty members ever at the College. He was a member of the Chemistry Department for over 40 years and passed away in the spring of 1965.

The Award is presented on an irregular basis and the Student Affiliate of the American Chemical Society, chaired by the faculty moderator; act as the selection committee to present a candidate to the Department Chairman. The award is given to a Canisius College graduate for excellence displayed in a chemistry/biochemistry career. Past recipients are:

Year Presented	Name	Class
1970	Paul Gassman	1957
1973	Robert Kuczkowski	1960
1976	Robert Schuler	1946
1982	Thomas Dougherty	1955
1900	Bruno Zwolinski	1941
1995	William Greiger	1965
1999	Gerald Wilemski	1968
2006	David Hangauer	1974
2009	Gerald Zon	1967

CROWDLE AWARD RECIPIENTS:

2009: Dr. Gerald Zon ('67)

(PhD, Princeton University '71)

[Honored for his research efforts in the field of medicinal chemistry](#). His work has led to the development of antisense agents, oligonucleotides that bind to mRNA and regulate gene expression, as a method of attacking diseases. [Click here](#) to read Jerry's "What's trending in nucleic acid research" blog.

2006: Professor David G. Hangauer ('74)

(PhD, University at Buffalo '79)

Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, University at Buffalo. Honored for his work on the development of protein kinase inhibitors as anti-cancer drugs.

1999: Professor Gerald Wilemski ('68)

(PhD, Yale University '70)

Professor, Department of Physics, Missouri University of Science and Technology. Honored for his use of thermodynamics and statistical mechanics in the study of a wide variety of chemical systems.

1995: Professor William E. Geiger Jr. ('65)

(PhD, Cornell '69)

Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, University of Vermont. Honored for his research in understanding the mechanisms involved in the electrochemical synthesis of molecular complexes.

1990: Professor Bruno Zvolinski ('41)

(PhD, Princeton '47)

Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, Texas A&M University. Honored for his leadership in measuring, gathering, evaluating and disseminating critical thermodynamic properties, as well as his contributions to the theory of chemical kinetics.

1982: Professor Thomas J. Dougherty ('55)

(PhD, Ohio State '59)

Chief Emeritus, Photodynamic Therapy Center, Professor of Oncology, Roswell Park Cancer Institute. Honored for his studies of the concentration of dyes in tumorous tissues and his subsequent development of photodynamic therapy for cancer patients.

1976: Professor Robert H. Schuler ('46)

(PhD, Notre Dame '49)

Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of Notre Dame. Honored for his fundamental research in the kinetics of radiation-induced reactions via ESR and other forms of spectroscopy.

1973: Professor Robert L. Kuczkowski ('60)

(PhD, Harvard '64)

Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, University of Michigan. Honored for his application of microwave spectroscopy to the study of reaction mechanisms, in particular applying Fourier transform microwave methods to the study of van der Waals complexes.

1970: Professor Paul G. Gassman ('57)

(PhD, Cornell '60)

Professor, Department of Chemistry, University of Minnesota. Honored for his research in the chemistry of strained ring compounds. He served as president of the American Chemical Society was a member of the National Academy of Sciences.

PAUL G. GASSMAN MEMORIAL SEMINAR SERIES



Paul G. Gassman ('57), PhD was a distinguished alumnus of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at Canisius College. A Regents Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Minnesota, he also served as President of the American Chemical Society and was a member of the National Academy of Sciences. Always supportive of his alma mater, he established an endowment at Canisius with regular contributions. After his premature death in 1993, his family generously augmented this fund in order to establish a seminar series in his honor. The Gassman Memorial Seminar series allows science majors to meet with an internationally renowned chemist and to learn about his/her research and the impact of this work on our environment and society.

Paul Gassman graduated in 1955 from Canisius College as a chemistry major and continued his education at Cornell University. After receiving his PhD degree, he joined the faculty at Ohio State and eventually moved to the University of Minnesota as Professor of Chemistry. He received national acclaim as President of the American Chemical Society.

Gassman Memorial Seminar Series Speakers:

2015

PROFESSOR PHIL S. BARAN

Department of Chemistry

Scripps Institute

"Studies in Natural Product Synthesis"

2012

PROFESSOR MELANIE SANFORD

Department of Chemistry

University of Michigan

"Tackling Global Challenges in Sustainable Chemistry"

2008

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY COATES

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Cornell University

"Making Environmentally Friendly Plastics from Thin Air"

2006

PROFESSOR CAROLYN BERTOZZI

Department of Chemistry
University of California, Berkeley

"Probing the Biology of Cell Surface Sugars with Chemical Tools"

2001

PROFESSOR HARRY GRAY

Division of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering
California Institute of Technology

"Fuel from Sunlight and Water"

1996

PROFESSOR JERROLD MEINWALD

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology
Cornell University

"Chemical Communication and Defense Mechanisms in the Insect World"