



THE **CHESAPEAKE
CHEMIST**

MARYLAND SECTION
AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

VOL. II

DECEMBER, 1993

NUMBER 9



THE MARYLAND CHEMIST OF THE YEAR

MARYLAND CHEMIST AWARD

1993

Presented to

Ernest F. Silversmith

In recognition of outstanding contributions to research in organic synthesis and organic chemistry; in recognition of being a renowned educator, role model, mentor to other faculty members, and a mentor to many students; furthermore, in recognition as an excellent but modest leader and scholar; and in grateful acknowledgement of high standards evinced for all who aspire to excellence in science and in fulfillment in life.

Awarded this fifteenth day of December, 1993, with the esteem of his fellow scientists and the affection of his colleagues and associates.

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ERNEST F. SILVERSMITH

Ernie Silversmith has been active in chemical education for 28 years. He has a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Harvard (1952) and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from the University of Wisconsin/Madison (1955). At Wisconsin, he studied the stereo-chemistry and kinetics of the allylic rearrangement with Harlan Goering. He then did postdoctorate research at Caltech, investigating small-ring compounds with John D. Roberts.

Ernie taught at Mount Holyoke College (1956-58) and then joined duPont's research staff for nine years. In 1967, he joined the faculty of Morgan State; he was chairperson for six years and is currently Professor of Chemistry. He has also taught at Johns Hopkins, Towson State, Loyola and the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy. He received the Middle Atlantic Region's E. Emmet Reid Award in 1987 and Morgan State's College of Arts and Sciences' Dean's Award for Teaching in 1989.

Ernie is author or co-author of thirty-seven papers and patents; several recent papers arose from a collaboration with Gary Posner of Johns Hopkins. He also co-authored, with Hopkins's Alex Nickon, a book entitled *Organic Chemistry: The Name Game*, that traces the origin of colorful terms that have enriched chemistry. Many of his other recent contributions have been in the area of chemical education. He has presented lecture-demonstrations at elementary, middle and high schools and at science camps. In addition, he has held workshops for teachers at educational conferences, and for middle and high school students at Morgan State.

TAKING THE "ICK" OUT OF ORGAN-ICK

Organic chemistry doesn't lend itself too well to "ooh-aah" demonstrations like fireworks and the kinds of general chemistry spectaculars popularized by Alyea, Shkhashiri et al. However, there are some that do help to illustrate concepts, catch students' attention and help make organic chemistry more interesting and palatable. An assortment of demonstrations and other activities that have helped us achieve these goals will be shown. The chemistry behind each one will be presented, and suggestions will be made as to how they can be fitted into courses in organic and/or polymer chemistry.

Also, ways in which modern techniques have been incorporated into the advanced organic laboratory will be described. For example, the use of laboratory "puzzles", which are really mini-research projects, challenges students to actually think like scientists and to use literature searches to help to solve problems. Several of these puzzles will be described in detail.

MARYLAND SECTION FUTURE MEETINGS

February 9, 1994	Dr. Richard Doty, University of Pennsylvania Taste and Smell Clinic, speaking on taste and smell, Goucher College.
March 9, 1994	Dr. Suzanne Lomax, National Gallery of Art, "The Application of Chemistry to the Examination of Works of Art", venue not set.
April 20, 1994	Dr. Ned Heindel, ACS President, "Science in the Smithsonian" at Western Maryland College; Student Awards Night.
May 11, 1994	Remsen Award Meeting at The Johns Hopkins University.

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

It is not necessary to notify *The Chesapeake Chemist* of address changes. We get our mailing labels from the ACS each month, so if you inform the ACS of your address change, we will automatically receive the correct label.

THE MARYLAND CHEMIST AWARD

DATE & PLACE:

Wednesday, December 15, 1993
University of Maryland
Baltimore County
Faculty/Staff Dining Area

Dinner reservations should be made by mailing checks, payable to Maryland Section of ACS, to

Dr. Stephen M. Gregory
College of Notre Dame
4701 North Charles Street
Baltimore, MD 21210

SCHEDULE:

6:00 Social Hour

by December 8. Late reservations may be made by calling

7:00 Dinner

(410) 532-5714

8:00 The Maryland Chemist Award Address

by December 10. Answering machine is available at this number.

ERNEST F. SILVERSMITH
Morgan State University
"Taking the 'ick' out
of Organ-ick"

Dinner price is \$16.00 per person, but spouses and retired chemists may attend for \$14.00; students may attend for \$8.00.

It is not necessary to be a member of the American Chemical Society to attend. You may attend the lecture without attending the dinner.

MARYLAND CHEMIST AWARD

The Maryland Chemist Award was established in 1962 to recognize and to honor, each year, a member of the Maryland Section for outstanding achievement in the field of chemistry. The achievement, as originally stated, may be in pure or applied chemistry, chemical engineering, or chemical education. Some recipients have distinguished themselves in management.

The Executive Committee of the Section has clarified the original definition of the award as follows:

Recipients of the Maryland Chemist Award must have been members of the Section for a minimum of five years and have made outstanding contributions to chemistry as defined in Article II of the Constitution of the Society (Chemistry is defined in broad terms). The work on which the award is based should have been performed in Maryland. Recommendations of the Maryland Chemist Awards Committee must be approved by the Executive Committee.

Previous recipients have been:

1962	E. Emmet Reid	1978	Gunther L. Eichorn
1963	W. Mansfield Clark	1979	Emil H. White
1964	Alsoph H. Corwin	1980	M. Gali Sanchez
1965	John C. Krantz, Jr.	1981	Paul O. P. Ts'ao
1966	Belle O. Talbot	1982	Joseph L. Katz
1967	Walter S. Koski	1983	Shsih-Yi Wang
1968	George L. Braude	1984	Nicolas Zenker
1969	Leslie Hellerman	1985	John Lambooy
1970	Paul H. Emmett	1986	David F. Roswell
1971	Giles B. Cooke	1987	Gary H. Posner
1972	Arnold M. Seligman	1988	Edward J. Poziomek
1973	Lester P. Kuhn	1989	Catherine Clarke Fenselau
1974	Joyce J. Kaufman	1990	Alex Nickon
1975	Benjamin Witten	1991	Cecil H. Robinson
1976	Richard L. Hall	1992	Craig A. Townsend
1977	Henry C. Freimuth		

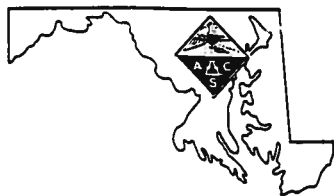
ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PAPERS

The *Maryland Section of the American Chemical Society* seeks your participation in

The 28th Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting.

The Baltimore MARM is scheduled for May 25-27, 1994
on the campus of The University of Maryland Baltimore County.

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Papers in all areas of chemistry will be considered. Specify whether oral or poster presentation is desired. Use the standard ACS abstract form (12 point courier font). The original and 3 copies must be received no later than February 1, 1994. Send to:

Dr. Dale Whalen
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ACS AWARD TO MR. WIZARD

Don Herbert, better known as Mr. Wizard, has been named the winner of the 1994 American Chemical Society James T. Grady - James H. Stack Award for Interpreting Chemistry for the Public. The \$3,000 award includes a gold medal and bronze replica and will be presented on March 15, 1994, at the 207th national meeting of the ACS in San Diego.

Mr. Wizard has been America's science teacher for more than forty years on commercial, public and cable television. He is best known today for Nickelodeon's *Mr. Wizard's World* which aired from 1983-91 and is still seen in reruns. In the 1980s he also produced 637 *How About* science shorts for public television. In 1987, *How About* tied with *Nova* for the AAAS/Westinghouse Science Journalism Award for best science reporting on television.

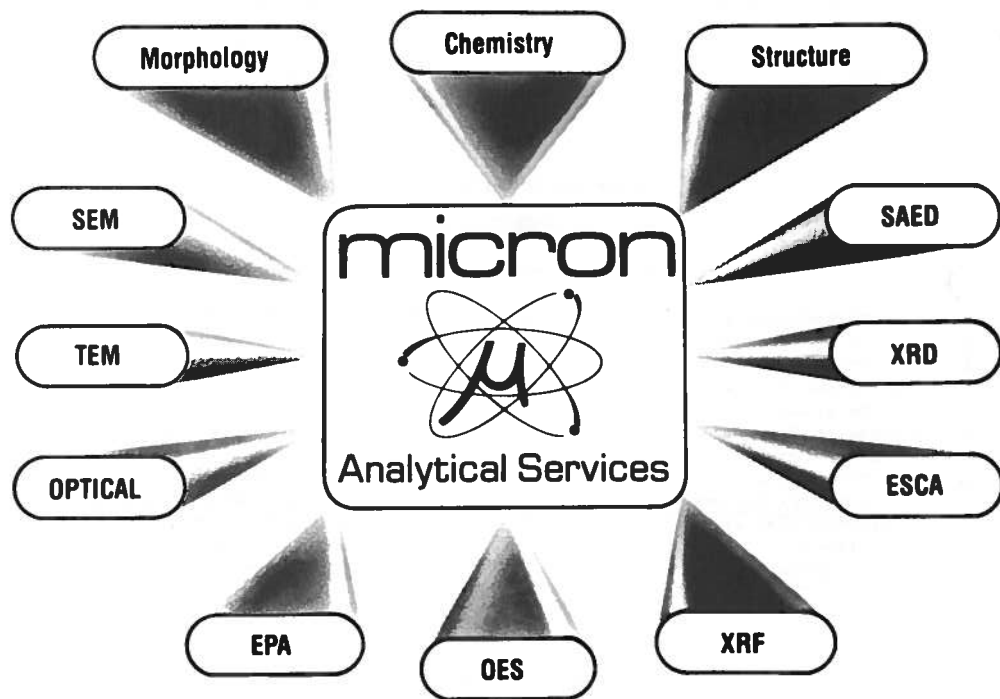
Don Herbert began his TV career with NBC in 1951. He performed more than 4,500 science demonstrations using common household items during fourteen seasons on *Watch Mr. Wizard*. In 1952-59 he was the science reporter on the *General Electric Theater* series. His other contributions to science education television were his *Mr. Wizard Close-ups* on NBC's Saturday morning cartoon programming in the 1970s and his public television science personality show *Experiment* which aired from 1965-66.

Don Herbert was born July 10, 1917, and received his B.S. in Science and Drama from the University of Wisconsin, LaCrosse, in 1940. He resides in Bell Canyon, California.

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