

10-6-1969

Dr. Joseph D. Park Honored with Distinguished Alumnus Award

Follow this and additional works at: https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls

Recommended Citation

"Dr. Joseph D. Park Honored with Distinguished Alumnus Award" (1969). *News Releases*. 3523.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/3523

This News Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Marketing and Communications at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in News Releases by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

News from

**THE UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON
PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

**JOE McLAUGHLIN
DIRECTOR, GENERAL PUBLICITY**

DAYTON, OHIO 45409

AREA CODE 513

229-2646

DAYTON, Ohio, October 6, 1969 --- Dr. Joseph D. Park '29, an internationally recognized authority in chemistry and presently a chemist at the University of Colorado, has been honored with the University of Dayton Distinguished Alumnus Award for 1969. Dr. Park is the fourth recipient of the award which set precedent in 1967.

The Very Reverend Raymond A. Roesch, President of the University of Dayton, will present the award to Dr. Park Saturday, October 18, at the annual University of Dayton Alumni Homecoming dinner in the Ballroom of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union on campus.

The selection committee for the award consists of three members of the University's National Alumni Association Board; Miss Mary Shay, Executive Secretary of the Alumni Association; and Brother Elmer C. Lackner, S.M., Vice President for Public Relations for the University. Previous recipients of the award were Dr. Carroll A. Hochwalt, '20, director of the St. Louis Research Council; Alphonse H. Mahrt '12, a retired member of the Board of Directors of The Mead Corporation; and Edwin G. Becker '14, judge of the Court of Common Appeals of Hamilton County, Ohio.

The award was established by the University for "...prominent persons in their chosen field of endeavor or by reason of exceptional public service...." In addition the recipient must be an alumnus at least 25 years prior to the presentation of the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Born in Hawaii of Korean parents, Dr. Park attended elementary school and high school on the island before obtaining a B.Ch.E. from the University of Dayton in 1929. While at U.D. he received the Victor Emanuel Junior Ch.E. Award in 1928 and the Victor Emanuel Senior Ch.E. Award in 1929. He became a Midgley Fellow at Ohio State University where he obtained a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1937, specializing in the field of carbohydrate chemistry under the late Professor William L. Evans.

During his first few years of graduate study at Ohio State, Dr. Park also worked for the Frigidaire Division of General Motors Corp. He was a member of the team that created a revolution in refrigeration by developing a non-toxic cooling gas--freon. Besides aiding in refrigeration, freon is used for various industrial and commercial purposes, including fluorinated fire extinguishers and aerosol propellants.

-continued-

After receiving his doctorate Dr. Park spent 10 years at the Jackson Laboratory of the E. I. duPont de Nemours and Co., Wilmington, Delaware, working in the then virgin field of organic fluorine chemistry. Work there led to improved aerosol propellants and to Teflon, the miracle non-stick coating that lines modern kitchen utensils. He joined the laboratory in 1937 as a research supervisor.

In 1947, after 15 years as an industrial chemist and engineer, Dr. Park turned to the academic life with the same vigor that earned him esteem and honor as an inventor and pioneer researcher. He joined the University of Colorado faculty as a member of the Department of Chemistry.

Since his association with the University, Dr. Park, along with Dr. John R. Lacher, has developed one of the largest organic fluorine chemistry training centers in the United States. At least 75 students have earned doctorates and another 28 have earned master's degrees under his supervision. Dr. Park's research, along with Professor Lacher, in organic fluorine compounds, has been supported by over one million dollars in federal funds.

Aside from his interest in organic fluorine compounds, Dr. Park has done pioneering work on cyclobutene and cyclobutane chemistry and calorimetry. Presently he is doing fundamental research and development of fluorinated nitroso rubbers--rubbers which hold up under extreme temperatures and stringent chemical conditions. This kind of rubber could be used on military or supersonic transport planes.

As an inventor and co-inventor, Dr. Park holds approximately 30 U.S. patents covering both new compositions of matter and processes relating to organic fluorine chemistry. His research has earned him numerous awards; among them an honorary degree from the University of Pusan in Korea and a University of Colorado Faculty Research Lectureship. He served as chairman of many Fluorine Symposiums across the country.

In September of 1960, Dr. Park was granted a sabbatical leave from the University of Colorado and studied in Italy under Professor G. Natta at the Milan Polytechnic Institute. He served as chairman-elect of the Fluorine Division of the American Chemical Society in 1966. In addition, he has lectured at various scientific meetings, been awarded over 10 research grants and contracts, and contributed nearly 100 articles to professional journals. This year he will appear as Invitational Lecturer at the 13th AFOSR Science Seminar, which will be held in Albuquerque, New Mexico, June 12 through June 19. A Physical Organic Chemistry Fund was established in 1958 at the University of Colorado by former graduate students to honor Dr. Park and Professor Lacher.

Dr. Park is married to the former Bernice Kim. They are the parents of three children--Brian K., Eric J., and Sharon Lee.