

JÜRIG WASER
1916 – 2002


Retired Caltech chemistry professor Jürg Waser died of congestive heart failure at his home in La Jolla on August 16. He was 85.

Waser was freshman chemistry for a generation of Caltech students. Known for his memorable lecturing style, he filled blackboards with great speed and agility and was infamous for his pop quizzes. Described as a dedicated teacher and supporter of undergraduate research, he was also known for his own work in X-ray crystallography.

Born in 1916 in Zürich, Switzerland, Waser attended the University of Zürich and came to the United States in 1939 intending to spend a year on a graduate student exchange program at Caltech. The outbreak of war kept him in Pasadena, where he completed a PhD in chemistry with Linus Pauling in 1944.

His five-part thesis covered several aspects of electron and X-ray diffraction. He remained at Caltech as a mathematics instructor, research fellow, senior research fellow, and Noyes Fellow until 1948, when he accepted an appointment at the University of Zürich and, later, at the Rice Institute (now Rice University) in Houston, Texas.

Waser returned to Caltech in 1958 as professor of chemistry, and for the next 12 years he taught Chem 1,

the general chemistry course for freshmen. Before his retirement in 1975, he taught the basic course in physical chemistry as well as oral presentation, by then the only required course in the chemistry curriculum.

At one time, Waser was president of the American Crystallographic Association, was active in other professional societies, and wrote numerous technical and educational articles.

Upon his retirement from Caltech, he concentrated on writing texts on general and physical chemistry and continued to do research, including work in chemical thermodynamics. He also collaborated with colleague Hans Kuhn in developing a chemical scenario for the origin of life. He was a supporter of the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program at Caltech and felt that it was very important for students to have an opportunity to do research even at the freshman level. He was a member of the Caltech Associates and traveled on Alumni Association excursions.

He loved logic and mathematics, music (ranging from jazz to classical), and the outdoors, especially the landscapes of the American southwest. For most of his life he jumped at an opportunity to camp in the desert, preferably with a railroad in view.

He is survived by his wife Irma; three children, Peter, Nickolas, and Katherine; a grandson, Andrew Waser; and a stepson, Ray Weiss (BS '64). □—JP

DAVID W. MORRISROE
1932 – 2002

Former Caltech vice president David Morrisroe, of Montecito, California, died Wednesday, September 4. He was 70.

A native of New York City, Morrisroe earned his BA from Manhattan College in 1954, his MA from Columbia in 1956, and his MBA from Harvard in 1964. He also served in the U.S. Army as a lieutenant. Before coming to Caltech, Morrisroe held positions at the Rand Corporation and General Electric. From 1967 to 1969 he was in Israel, Spain, and England as a consultant on general management problems.

He came to Caltech in 1969 as director of financial services, and was promoted to vice president for financial affairs and treasurer in 1974. He was appointed vice president for business and finance and treasurer in 1978, and in 1995 became vice president and treasurer. He stepped down in 1995.

The Morrisroe Astroscience Laboratory and the Morrisroe Professorship of Physics, held by Ed Stone, were named in his honor.

Morrisroe was a popular speaker on such topics as managing not-for-profit corporations, administrative data processing, financial management of educational institutions, and planning. Beginning in 1971, he taught a business economics course, and also founded the Caltech

HOFFMANN NEW DEAN OF GRAD STUDIES

Michael Hoffmann, the Irvine Professor of Environmental Science at the California Institute of Technology, has been appointed dean of graduate studies. Hoffmann replaces D. Roderick Kiewiet, who returned to full-time professorial duties earlier this year.

Hoffmann has been on the Caltech faculty since 1980. An expert in environmental chemistry, he is a member of the editorial boards of the American Chemical Society's scientific journals *Environmental Science and Technology* and the *Journal of Physical Chemistry*. He is also on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Max Planck Institute for Chemistry in Mainz, Germany.

Hoffmann was awarded the von Humboldt Prize in 1991 for his research and teaching in environmental chemistry. In 2001, Hoffmann was presented with the American Chemical Society Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology for "his fundamental and lasting contributions to the science of aquatic chemistry, to the development of aquatic remediation processes, and to understanding heterogeneous and multiphase processes in the atmospheric environment." This year Hoffmann was honored as the Dodge Distinguished Lecturer in Chemical Engineering at Yale.

Before coming to Caltech, he was a member of the civil engineering faculty at the University of Minnesota. He holds a PhD in chemistry

from Brown and a BA from Northwestern. He was a research fellow at Caltech from 1973 to 1976. □—RT



HONORS AND AWARDS

Erik Antonsson, professor of mechanical engineering, has been appointed JPL's chief technologist, where he will be responsible for keeping abreast of cutting-edge technologies and identifying those in which JPL should invest for future missions.

Peter Dervan, the Bren Professor of Chemistry, has been selected by the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology to receive the 2002 Harvey Prize in Science and Technology, for his "pioneering studies" in gene regulation by small molecules and "for combining the art of organic synthesis, physical chemistry, and biology to create novel synthetic molecules." Dervan was also recently elected to the American Philosophical Society.

Wolfgang Knauss (BS '58, MS '59, PhD '63), the von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics and Applied Mechanics, and Anatol Roshko (MS '47, PhD '52), the von Kármán Professor of Aeronautics, Emeritus, were honored in June with special symposia devoted to their work at the 14th U.S. National Congress of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics.

Matthew Porteus, a postdoc in President David Baltimore's lab, has received a five-year, \$500,000 Career Award in the Biomedical Sciences from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund. Porteus studies gene targeting, in which a gene is introduced into a cell to replace a damaged copy—a promising approach to curing diseases that are caused by mutations of single genes.

Alexander Varshavsky, the Smits Professor of Cell Biology, will share (with Avram Hershko of the Technion—Israel Institute of Technology) the E. B. Wilson Medal, the highest award of the American Society for Cell Biology. The award recognizes "significant and far-reaching contributions to cell biology over the course of a career," in this case work on the ubiquitin system of regulated protein degradation.

Simon Wilkie, assistant professor of economics, has been named chief economist for the Federal Communications Commission, where, on sabbatical leave from Caltech, he will provide independent, nonpartisan advice on interstate and international communications issues. □



Student Investment Club.

He was a director of the Harvard Business School Association of Southern California and the Financial Executives Institute of Los Angeles and was a former trustee of the University of San Diego. He was a member of the Academy of Management and the National Association of College and University Business Officers.

He is survived by his wife, Marie. □—JP