



Henry Baumgarten

February 27, 1921 – March 12, 2006

Henry Baumgarten, Professor Emeritus in the Department of Chemistry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a noted organic chemist, died March 12, 2006 at the age of 85. Born in Texas, Henry earned BA (1943) and MA (1944) degrees in chemistry from Rice University. After service with the U.S. Navy in the Pacific during 1944-1945, he returned to Rice and completed his PhD in chemistry in 1948.

Henry began his career as a research associate at the University of Illinois with Prof. C.S. "Speed" Marvel publishing his first scientific paper describing the emulsion polymerization of 2-alkyl-1,3-butadienes, published in 1949 in the *Journal of Polymer Science*, volume 4. He moved to the University of Nebraska in 1949, publishing his first independent paper in the *Journal of Organic Chemistry* (1951, volume 16) describing the synthesis of *dl*-3,3,4-trimethylcyclopentanone. His research on structure and reactivity of organic molecules was marked by a focus on amines and strained rings, including pioneering efforts on the synthesis of alpha-lactams, and by an early appreciation for the potential of NMR and mass spectrometry in organic chemistry. He received a Guggenheim fellowship in 1962. He was an editorial board member for *Journal of Organic Chemistry* and *Organic Syntheses*; for the latter series, he was also on the Board of Directors and the Editor of the fifth collective volume. His lab manual on organic chemistry, co-authored with Walter Linstromberg, was published through five editions and was well known to both college students and instructors.

Henry was an active birder, serving as both an author and assistant editor for the *Nebraska Bird Review*. He was member and officer in both the Audubon Naturalists' Club and the Nebraska Ornithologists Union. After his retirement, he was active in the Nebraska Academy of Sciences.

Henry remained on the faculty at UNL for nearly forty years, becoming Regents Professor of Chemistry and serving as department chair, President of the UNL Academic Senate, and UNL Vice Chancellor for Research. He was a member of ACS for more than fifty years.

James M. Takacs
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