



Albert I. Meyers

November 22, 1932 - October 23, 2007

Albert I. Meyers, John K. Stille Professor Emeritus, Colorado State University Distinguished Professor Emeritus, died from a long-standing heart condition on October 23, 2007, at the age of 74. Al was born in New York City on November 22, 1932, and spent his childhood and young adulthood in New York, earning a bachelor's degree in 1954, from New York University, and his Ph.D. from the same institution in 1957, under the direction of Professor J. J. Ritter.

He began his academic career in 1958 as an assistant professor at Louisiana State University in New Orleans. In 1965 he was a National Institutes of Health Postdoctoral Fellow for one year at Harvard University with Professor E. J. Corey, after which he returned to LSU. In 1970 he moved to Wayne State University and after a brief two years, moved to Colorado State University where he remained for the rest of his career and life.

With his outgoing personality and ability to talk to anybody and everybody, Al was instrumental in the dramatic development and improvement of the Chemistry Department at Colorado State University, during the difficult 1970's. He was a staunch supporter of the Chemistry Department both internally and externally.

His major research interests were in the application of heterocycles to organic synthesis, asymmetric synthesis and the total synthesis of biologically important compounds utilizing the methodology he developed. During his long career (he reluctantly retired in 2002, due to failing health) he mentored over 80 Ph. D. students and 200 postdoctoral co-workers in his research program, and taught organic chemistry to thousands of undergraduates. In addition to his close relationship with his own research group, he was available and helpful to any student who would walk into his office. His enthusiasm for organic chemistry was boundless.

Al served as a consultant for a number of pharmaceutical companies including Bristol-Myers-Squibb, GlaxoSmithKline and Hoffmann-La Roche, and was on the advisory board of several biotech companies. He received more than 75 national and international awards, including the ACS Award for Creative Work in Synthetic Organic Chemistry in 1985, an ACS Arthur C. Cope Scholar Award in 1987, the Yamada Prize

from the Chemical Society of Japan in 1996, and the International Award in Heterocyclic Chemistry in 1997. He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1994.

Al was an associate editor for the *Journal of the American Chemical Society* from 1980-1984, and was the editor of Volume 70 of *Organic Syntheses*.

Beyond all of this, he was a warm and outgoing human being, exuberant and extravagant at times, and always entertaining. He is sorely missed.

Al's wife of 50 years, Joan, a talented artist in her own right, died of cancer shortly after his death. They are survived by a son, Harold, two daughters, Jill Bombel and Lisa Thompson, and seven grandchildren.

Louis S. Hegedus
Fort Collins, CO

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