

Distinguished Achievement Citation

F. Sherwood Rowland

Class of 1948

Mr. Rowland is a research chemist, responsible for alerting the world to an unsuspected ecological danger of vast proportions. His research on the damage done to the earth's protective ozone layer by fluorocarbons from aerosol propellants, and his untiring support of an international ban on the harmful substances, has deflected continued damage to the earth's atmosphere.

In 1974 Dr. Rowland warned the world of the artificial deterioration of the earth's ozone layer, which protects terrestrial life from over exposure to ultraviolet rays from the sun. He spent the next four years convincing the federal government of the situation's immediacy, and courageously withstood attacks from industries with a vested financial interest in ignoring the crisis.

A 1948 Ohio Wesleyan graduate and holder of advanced degrees from the University of Chicago, Dr. Rowland is chairperson of the chemistry department at the University of California-Irvine. He is a former consultant of the organization. A former professor at Princeton and the University of Kansas, Dr. Rowland has written over 200 scientific articles and has lectured extensively in America, England, Europe and Asia.

Recognition of research conducted by Dr. Rowland in several areas of chemistry includes the granting of two Guggenheim fellowships, election to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences, and honors from other scientific societies. He also has received awards for his scientific work and lecture from the University of California-Irvine and the University of Chicago.

The world owes Dr. Rowland its gratitude not only for his discovery of the ecological "time bomb," but for his persistence in demanding that we take action to protect ourselves. His blend of intellectual curiosity and fortitude stands as an example of the scientific community's potential to preserve, as well as serve, humankind.

