Dr. Michael J. Moran: An Appreciation upon his Retirement

Michael J. Moran earned his B.S. in Chemistry from St. Joseph’s College (now University) in 1973, and then went to graduate school at the University of Pennsylvania, earning his Ph.D. in Inorganic Chemistry under the direction of Dr. Alan MacDiarmid (2000 Nobel laureate in Chemistry) in 1978. He remained at the University of Pennsylvania for a post-doctoral appointment in the Moore School of Electrical Engineering from 1978-80, then completed a second post-doctoral appointment as a National Research Council Post-Doctoral Associate at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC from 1980-81.

In 1981 Dr. Moran joined the Chemistry Department at WCU as an Assistant Professor, and earned both tenure & promotion to the rank of Associate Professor in 1986, and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Full Professor in 1988.

During his 39 year career at WCU, Dr. Moran served two terms as Department Chair (1987-90, 1990-93) and also served for several years as Assistant Department Chair. Within the Chemistry Department, Dr. Moran was a valued colleague on many faculty Search Committees and Evaluation Committees, as well as the Chemistry Scholarship Committee. Outside the Department, Dr. Moran served as Chair of the Athletics Advisory Board, as NCAA Faculty Athletics Representative, on the CAS (College of Arts & Sciences) Undergraduate Research Awards Committee, as well as the Pharmaceutical Product Development Program’s Advisory Committee and the University level Faculty Tenure & Promotion Committee (TeP). He has been a diligent academic advisor to Chemistry majors over the years, and has also been a caring mentor to newer faculty joining the Chemistry Department.

Dr. Moran engaged in research in the area of synthetic metals, with a focus on low temperature graphite & sulfur nitride intercalation compounds, and 17-electron cobalt complexes as potassium carriers for intercalation. He has supervised the research of many undergraduate and graduate (M.S.) students, and authored several peer-reviewed publications on the results. He also worked with Dr. John Townsend to co-author the “Study Guide for Kotz, Treichel and Townsend’s *Chemistry and Chemical Reactivity*” with Brooks/Cole Cengage Learning.

His presence will be greatly missed by his colleagues, and we wish him the very best for a long, happy and healthy retirement, with attendance at lots of Phillies games in the coming years!