



Press Release

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University of Texas at Austin Chemist Named SURA Distinguished Scientist

Washington, DC – The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) today announced that Allen J. Bard, Hackerman-Welch Regents Chair in Chemistry at The University of Texas at Austin, will receive its 2009 Distinguished Scientist Award. The award honors a research scientist whose extraordinary work fulfills the SURA mission of “fostering excellence in scientific research.” The award and its \$20,000 honorarium will be presented to Bard on April 7 at the SURA Board of Trustees meeting in Washington, DC.

“Not only is The University of Texas at Austin fortunate to have a researcher the caliber of Dr. Bard on its campus, but the entire region and country benefit from his service as well,” said Charles W. Steger, President of Virginia Tech and Chair of the SURA Council of Presidents. “Both inside and outside the laboratory, Dr. Bard brings distinction to himself, his university, and his field of study. It is an honor for SURA to be able to recognize his years of outstanding research and mentorship.”

Before coming to The University of Texas at Austin in 1958 as an instructor, Dr. Bard earned his Masters and Ph.D. in Chemistry from Harvard University and his Bachelors from City College of New York. He also served as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Paris (1973) and a Visiting Professor at the University of Tokyo (1975). His research involves the application of electrochemical methods to the study of chemical problems and includes investigations in electroanalytical chemistry.

“To me, this award represents recognition of the many coworkers at The University of Texas at Austin who participated in our research, including the development and application of scanning electrochemical microscopy and electrogenerated chemiluminescence, and to my colleagues all over the world who have contributed to the development of modern electrochemistry,” says Dr. Bard.

In addition to the SURA award, Bard has been named recipient of 40 distinct honors and awards, including the Wolf Foundation Prize (2008), the Welch Foundation Award in Chemistry (2004), the Priestly Medal of the American Chemical Society (2002), and the Olin-Palladium Medal of the Electrochemical Society (1987.) Dr. Bard was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1982.

University of Texas at Austin President William Powers Jr. wrote in his nomination of Bard, “At age seventy-five, and after fifty years at The University of Texas at Austin, he still maintains a group of fifteen to twenty students and postdocs, publishes ten to twenty research papers every year, and teaches his signature graduate-level electrochemistry course.” Noting his mentorship of 83 Ph.D. students, 16 M.S. students, and 162 postdoctoral associates, Powers added, “This is Professor Bard’s most significant legacy, and one that will continue to produce important scientific breakthroughs for many years to come.”

“Allen Bard demonstrates the highest qualities of a distinguished scientist. Throughout his tenure at Texas, by the mentorship and research he has performed, he brings honor and attention to not only his institution, but to our nation,” said P. Geoffrey Feiss, Provost at the College of William and Mary and Chair of the SURA Board of Trustees.

Bard has authored or co-authored more than 800 peer-reviewed publications, four books, and twenty patents, and served as editor of several influential book series. His professional activities have spanned association with the Air Force, Department of Energy, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), National Research Foundation, National Science Foundation, Solar Energy Research Institute, and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural (UNESCO). Further, his consultancy relationships include work with Monsanto, Exxon, Phillips Petroleum, Rockwell International, Texas Instruments, Bell Northern and the Electric Power Research Institute.

The SURA Distinguished Scientist Award was established in 2006 to commemorate the organization's 25th Anniversary. SURA's Development and Relations Committees manage the solicitation, screening and selection of the recipient for this award from a SURA member institution. Dr. David Lee, Vice President for Research at the University of Georgia, is the chair of the selection committee for SURA.

The award and honorarium will be presented to Dr. Bard at a private reception in his honor at the Hamilton Crowne Plaza in Washington, DC.

Each of SURA's 62 member institutions was eligible to make one nomination for the Distinguished Scientist Award. Last year's selection – also presented at the Spring Board of Trustees meeting – was Dr. Lonnie Ingram of the University of Florida, a microbiologist and renewable energy researcher.

Additionally, SURA presents a Distinguished Friend of Science Award presented in conjunction with its Fall Board of Trustees meeting. Past honorees include U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander of Tennessee (2006) and U.S. Senator John Warner of Virginia (2007).

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The Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) is a consortium of over 60 leading research institutions in the southern United States and the District of Columbia established in 1980 as a non-stock, nonprofit corporation. SURA serves as an entity through which colleges, universities, and other organizations may cooperate with one another, and with government and industry in acquiring, developing, and using laboratories and other research facilities and in furthering knowledge and the application of that knowledge in the physical, biological, and other natural sciences and engineering. For more information, visit www.sura.org.