

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION**  
**EMERITUS PROFESSOR LEE TODD**  
**(November 8, 1936 - March 22, 2011)**

Lee J. Todd was born in Denver, Colorado and educated in Catholic schools, including a Jesuit high school. He obtained a B.S. in Chemistry from Notre Dame in 1958. He completed an M.S. degree in organic chemistry at Florida State University, working with Professor John Leffler on arylboranes as analogs of carbonium ions, starting a life-long interest in boron chemistry. Lee earned a Ph.D. in 1963 with Professor Riley Schaeffer and joined the faculty of Indiana University in 1968.

Postdoctoral training in organometallic chemistry was obtained at M.I.T. with Professor Dietmar Seyferth (1963-1964), and in the fall of 1964, Lee accepted an assistant professorship at the University of Illinois. In 1968, Lee gave a seminar at Indiana University, and this led to a job offer in the Chemistry Department starting in the fall of 1968. At that time, IU enjoyed a Center of Excellence grant from the federal government to increase the size and strength of the department. In the 1970's, with Professors Schaeffer and Lee on faculty, IU was one of the top centers in the world for the study of boron chemistry. There were several promising applications for boron compounds under investigation at that time, in particular boron cancer therapy.

Lee was exceptionally involved with all the individuals who entered into his realm, either as research workers or in his classes. Lee enjoyed research collaborations with a large number of postdoctoral, graduate and undergraduate students in his research laboratories during his thirty-two years in the department. Many new, interesting boron hydride molecules were prepared during this time period. On October 6, 2000, an Inorganic Mini-Symposium was held in the chemistry department as part of the alumni weekend in honor of Lee Todd. Six speakers were alumni of Lee's research group. Both the first (Professor Dave Hyatt, PhD 1968) and the last (Dr. Steve Jasper, PhD 1995) doctoral students were in attendance at the symposium.

Lee was truly passionate about boron chemistry, early on for the unusual characteristics of compounds of the boron nuclei contained there, but later in compounds where unusual cage borane anions were attached to transition metal ions, forming compounds where the metal was in an unusually high formal oxidations state. Finally, Lee was active in using boron compounds to attempt to sequester and precipitate radioactive cesium from nuclear reactor wastes, to immobilize them so that they would be rendered "fixed" for long term nuclear waste disposal.

Lee was also very interested, later in his career, with exploiting the high capacity of boron nuclei to capture neutrons for the application in boron neutron capture cancer therapy, where the job of the researcher was to identify boron compounds which would localize in tumors to enable focused radiation therapy on the boron enriched tumor tissue. For example, incorporating boron atoms into amino acid analogs was intended to improve the effectiveness of boron neutron capture therapy.

Lee was involved in collaborations with Czech boron chemists, and attended international boron chemistry conferences around the world, long ago in Moscow and most recently in Spain, to follow his love of that area of chemistry. Lee was a tireless mentor of undergraduate and graduate students, attending to their needs toward developing skills as boron chemists, but also attending to their own life choices and decisions.

With the aid of his long-time friend, Professor Paul Grieco, formerly of the IU Bloomington chemistry department, and three other local farmers, Lee began his education in farming in 1975. As a young man, Lee lived solely in a city environment. Later in life, he lived on a fifty-three acre farm west of Bloomington. Farming activities held his interest for his last years.

Following his retirement, Lee amazed us all in the chemistry department by building up a self-contained laboratory on his farm here in southern Indiana and running a small company which supplied decaborane to researchers around the world to use as a reagent for their own research. Lee had what is almost certainly the only *combined* boron chemical company and beef cattle farm in the world!

Later in life, Lee developed an interest in religion. He audited several courses at IU in the Religious Studies Department, concentrating on the mysticism of several religious traditions of the world.

Lee is survived by three adult children: a daughter, Jackie, a son, John and another son, Gregory, and his longtime partner Marci Ankrom and his step-son Anthony Ankrom.

In recognition of Emeritus Professor Lee Todd's many contributions to the scientific and scholarly life of the Department of Chemistry, the community and to the university at large, be it resolved that this memorial resolution become part of the permanent records of the proceedings of the Bloomington Faculty Council.

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