

# Texas A&M professor receives organic photochemistry award

By CHERYL HICKMAN  
A Texas A&M University professor was presented with the Fresenius Award at a banquet in his honor Thursday night in the Memorial Student Center.

Dr. Patrick S. Mariano, an associate professor with the Chemistry Department, received the award for the overall quality of his work in organic photochemistry. He is the first Texas professor to be honored.

The Fresenius Award is given annually to a chemist, 35 or younger,

for outstanding achievement in his field of study.

Mariano, 35, said he has been studying organic photochemistry since he entered graduate school in 1964. He has been at Texas A&M since 1970, and is now on sabbatical at Cornell University in New York.

Organic photochemistry is the study of light as it interacts with different organic groups and causes the molecules in these compounds to rearrange, said Mike Killough, treasurer of Phi Lambda Upsilon (PLU). PLU is an honorary chemical society that sponsors the award.

The award is named after Karl Remigius Fresenius (1818-1897), a German chemist who is considered to be the father of analytical chemistry. Two of his books, one on qualitative analysis and the other on quantitative analysis, have come to be considered as standards for all chemists.

The first Fresenius Award was given in 1965. To receive the award one must be nominated by a chapter of PLU. The winner is then chosen by a five member selection committee. It is primarily an honorary award with only a small money grant of about \$200.

Mariano said he was very surprised that he was chosen for the award. He said he thought there were some very competent chemists who were up for the award, but "I thought I wasn't one of them."

Mariano said he plans to do some traveling this year to talk at various universities about his work. However, he said he does plan to return to Texas A&M eventually.



Pictured at right, Dr. J. Greene Jr., the National Secretary of Phi Lambda Upsilon, presents Dr. Patrick S. Mariano, (left), the Fresenius Award of 1978. Phi Lambda is an honorary chemical society.

Battalion photo by Susan Webb

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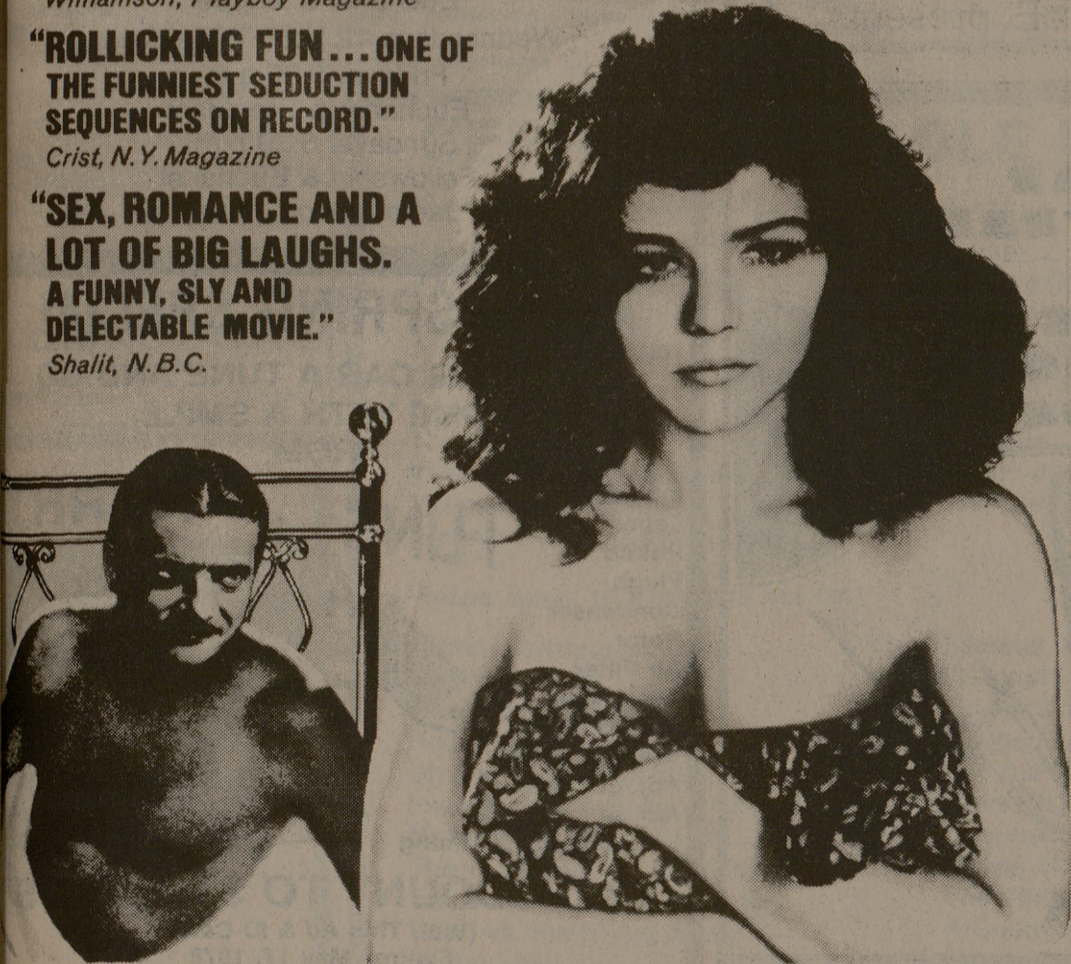
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