

A&M chemistry professor honored

Endowment named after Dr. Cotton by American Chemical Society

By Sara Israwi
THE BATTALION

Dr. Frank A. Cotton has earned most prestigious awards short of the Nobel Prize and the respect from his colleagues in chemistry for his work as a professor, researcher and scientist.

Cotton, distinguished professor of chemistry at Texas A&M University, has recently been named the co-recipient of the 1994 Robert A. Welch Award, which honors outstanding chemical research that has benefited human beings.

Growing up, Cotton said he was always interested in science, mainly chemistry.

"I don't ever remember being uncertain about what I wanted to be," he said. "I always wanted to be in science as early as I can remember. It was certainly always my aspiration to do chemistry that was important."

Cotton said that in some careers money is how success is measured, but in chemistry it is the awards and recognition.

"When you go into academic teaching and research, your salary is limited, so the reward as a scholar is recognition, by those qualified to judge, that I have done something important," he said.

Cotton said there is no direct measure one can take to earn the awards and recognition he has achieved. He said he has done the best he knows how and hopes the system is fair and honest so that it will recognize someone who does something of significance.

Cotton said he does not distinguish between teaching and research but sees them as equally important.

"The research I do is done with students," he said. "Actually, that is a lot harder than teaching undergraduates, because it is one on one."

"Beginning graduate students know little, but by the time they finish, they have learned a lot."

Dr. Carlos Murillo, an A&M research scientist and colleague of Cotton's, said Cotton has an open door policy with students and colleagues.

"You can walk into his office anytime if you want to talk about science," he said. "Every time there is a need to discuss something, his door is always open."

Murillo said it is uncommon that in 1995, Cotton will graduate his 100th Ph.D. student.

"That's an amazing number; it's incredible. Few people, if any, have 100 Ph.D.'s that have

been graduated," he said.

Dr. Kim Dunbar, who works in the chemistry department at Michigan State University, is one of many people who were inspired by Cotton.

There is always time for hard-working students in Cotton's life, she said.

"If you have worked with him and have put in hard work, he will go to the ends of the earth for you," she said. "He is fiercely loyal."

She said Cotton is physically the strongest person she has ever met.

"He is turning 65 in the next year, travels around the world and doesn't show any fatigue or burn-out," she said. "The love of his work really keeps him going."

Dunbar said that although Cotton has earned some of the highest awards in his profession, it is not the recognition that keeps him going.

"I am not too sure Dr. Cotton realizes the awards are a symbol of what his field thinks of him," she said. "They are rewarding for obvious reasons, but the award comes on a day-to-day basis just to go to work."

A symposium in honor of Cotton will be held in March 1995. In addition, an endowment to



Sara Israwi/The Battalion

Dr. Frank A. Cotton, distinguished professor of chemistry at A&M, was recently named the co-recipient of the 1994 Robert A. Welch Award, to honor his outstanding chemical research.

be named the F. A. Cotton Medal is being set up through the American Chemical Society.

Murillo said it is the first medal award created since 1966 and the first one ever in the southern part of the U.S.

"You don't create this kind of award very easily," he said.

"Only if you can prove the person behind it is very well qualified."

Cotton was voted into the Royal Society of London, which is dedicated to the promotion of natural sciences and extends its membership to internationally recognized scholars.

Cotton holds honorary doctor-

ates from 18 universities including Columbia University, Moscow State University, University of Cambridge and Technion in Israel.

Cotton said he has not set future plans but will continue what he has been doing for as long as he can see into the future.

An over baked Texas

Heat wave expected to last through July

EL PASO (AP) — "Hot, hot and very hot." That was National Weather Service meteorologist Max Blood's summary of El Paso's weather Monday, and his forecast for the rest of the week.

Similar conditions are expected in the rest of Texas, which has been cooking under record-setting and record-tying temperatures as a heat wave has continued to roll slowly over the Southwest.

At least nineteen Texas cities recorded temperatures of 100 or more Sunday. The 115-degree heat at Wink was only 5 degrees off the highest ever recorded in the state — 120 degrees in Seymour on Aug. 12, 1936, the weather service said.

The heat continued unabated Monday. At midday, Midland reported a reading of 107, breaking a 14-year-old record set in 1980, when a three-week heat wave seared much of Texas.

The current hot spell was pushing up utility companies' power sales as Texans rushed to crank up air conditioners. Those with outdoor jobs were dreading what looked to be a week of oppressive heat. Others were simply seeking refuge inside.

"You're just kind of miserably there for a while," said John Lytle, an El Paso roofer.

At a Baskin Robbins in Houston, employee Andy Shelton said ice cream wasn't the first thing on the minds of customers coming in to escape the heat.

"The first thing they ask for when they come in is water," said Shelton.

Houston's temperatures have been fluctuating in the high 90s, but compounded with humidity that has averaged about 55 percent during the past two weeks, the heat index is at 109.

Other cities were experiencing actual triple-digit heat. El Paso was expected to exceed 100 degrees for the fifth straight day Monday, said Blood. The city tied a record Sunday, reaching 112 degrees.

"For June and July, 110 seems to be a very favorite temperature," Blood said. "When you get to 111 or 112, you're getting into an area we don't see very often in El Paso."

The 100-degree temperatures in Dallas were nothing unusual for June, but with the heat index hovering between 105 and 115, the weather felt even steamier.

Many Dallas residents took refuge at pools and movie theaters during the weekend.

Mike Forbes, of Garland, took his 8- and 9-year-old sons to the Medallion Dollar Theater. "It's definitely cheap entertainment, and it's cool in there," Forbes said.

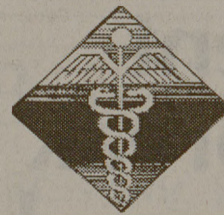
"Let's face it, it's cheaper to come here and spend a dollar for a movie than cool your house or apartment," said Medallion manager Debbie Faubion.

In San Antonio, downtown tourists endured oven-like conditions as they made their way to the Alamo and the River Walk. Temperatures there were also expected to approach or exceed 100.

"For June and July, 110 seems to be a very favorite temperature."

— Max Blood,

National Weather Service meteorologist



HEALTH TIPS

You, the sun, and skin cancer

By Kindell Peters
A.P. BEUTEL HEALTH CENTER

If people want tan bodies, they may be taking a big risk with their health. Over 600,000 cases of skin cancer are reported each year in the United States. Those people

with fair skin who freckle or burn easily, live in sunny climates, have red or blond hair and/or have blue or light-colored eyes are at the greatest risk for developing skin cancer.

There are three major types of skin cancer:

- basal cell carcinoma - appears as a small fleshy bump or nodule
- squamous cell carcinoma -

may appear as nodules or as red, scaly patches

• malignant melanoma - the least common but most deadly type of skin cancer, usually begins near a mole or other dark spot on the skin; therefore, it is important to be aware of your moles and check them periodically for any changes:

- The ABCD's of Melanoma:
- Asymmetry - normal moles are symmetrical
 - Border - normal moles have even edges
 - Color - normal moles are uniform in color
 - Diameter - normal moles are usually less than one-fourth of an inch wide

To help prevent skin cancer,

there are several precautions that can be taken.

1. Always wear sunscreen even on overcast days because 80 percent of ultraviolet radiation can penetrate the clouds.
2. Wear a hat to help shield your face and body against the sun.
3. Be aware of reflective surfaces such as sand, snow, concrete and water. These surfaces reflect more than 1/2 of the sun's rays onto the skin.
4. Be aware of photosensitivity, increased sensitivity to sun exposure. This is a possible side effect of certain medications, cosmetics and birth control pills.
5. Avoid any activity out in the sun during peak hours of the day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Fate of space station nearly at hand

House to vote this week on \$30 billion program

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the space station's first showdown vote of the year just a day or two away, backers and foes of the oft-contested \$30 billion program were scrambling Monday to corral votes.

The House as early as Tuesday could begin considering a \$72.9 billion appropriations package that funds housing, veterans, space and other programs. By far the most contentious issue in the

bill is the \$2.1 billion earmarked for the orbiting laboratory.

Fresh in both sides' minds is last year's 216-215 House vote granting the space station another year of life.

"This time we have ringing in our ears a one-vote victory," said Rep. Ralph Hall, the Texan who chairs the House space subcommittee and one of the leaders in the pro-station fight.

Joining in the lobbying effort are the aerospace industry, space advocacy groups and administration officials, including Vice President Al Gore and NASA chief Daniel Goldin.

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