

## Memories of Noyes Lab

David House

Ph.D. 1978

One of the memories that I have of Noyes Lab was fixed upon me shortly after my arrival to the U of I in 1973. Some of the new graduate students who had not yet selected an advisor were assigned desk space in the bowels of the basement of Noyes Lab. The rooms were poorly lighted, stuffed with old wooden furniture, and the floors were poured, uneven concrete. In one place, you could see a pile of dirt behind a fenced-off area. I'm sure that these amenities added quaintness and character to the building, but to most of us it was a big incentive to quickly select an advisor.

My favorite memory of Noyes Lab is the beautiful woodwork throughout the building and also the high ceilings. This is a building with character and timeless beauty. In some ways, it was like working in a museum. It is definitely true that they don't build them like that anymore.

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## Biography

David W. House, Ph.D., received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1973 and his doctorate in organic chemistry from the University of Illinois (Urbana-Champaign) in 1978. He joined UOP LLC in 1978 and is currently an R&D Associate in the Applications Science Skill Center, which is part of the UOP Research Center. David's current focus is developing novel catalytic processes for the oxidation of hydrocarbons.

David has also directed the research effort at UOP for both cellular and non-cellular polyurethane and polyurea applications since 1985. This area involves the investigation and development of novel components for polyurethanes and polyureas; an example being the development of a new series of light-stable, aliphatic diamines for polyurethane and polyurea coatings. In addition, his work includes the use of molecular sieves as additives in polymers and the use of heterogeneous catalysis to carry out organic syntheses. Previous work covers the development of a new series of electrically conducting polymers, a method for the large-scale diastereomeric separation of optical isomers of aminoacids and alcohols, and the design of new chiral stationary phases for the liquid chromatographic separation of optical isomers.

David is a member of Sigma Xi, the American Chemical Society, the Organic Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society, and the International Zeolite Association. He is the author or co-author of 43 U.S. patents and more than 35 scientific papers. David is listed in *Marquis Who's Who In Science and Engineering* and The Society of Plastics Engineers and Technomic Publishing's *Who's Who in Plastics and Polymers*.

David is also the co-founder and Post Advisor of the UOP Explorer Post, which is chartered as part of the Learning for Life Division of the Boy Scouts of America. The Post introduces high school students to careers in chemistry and chemical engineering and is beginning its 11th year. Over the years, David has served in many scouting positions, including Cubmaster and

Scoutmaster. As an adult scouter, David has received several awards for his service to youth, including the Silver Beaver Award and the District Award of Merit.

(August 20, 2001)