

Nobel laureate visits University

By Ingrid Petersen
Emerald Reporter

Linus Pauling, two-time Nobel laureate, visited the University Saturday as the guest of honor at the annual American Chemical Society award ceremony, which was held in the EMU Ballroom.

Harden M. McConnell of Stanford University was honored during the ceremony with the Society's annual award that bears Pauling's name. The award is given to individuals for "Outstanding contributions to chemistry of a character that has merited national and international recognition."

"Today is a very special day in the sense that many things have happened," McConnell said, in reference to being honored with the award and being able to see former students, such as Hayes Griffith, a professor in the University's chemistry department and Pauling, who was one of McConnell's former professors at the California Institute of Technology.

"McConnell's primary concern is to find theoretical solutions to truly significant problems," said Dr. Alvin Kwiram of the University of Washington, who introduced McConnell.

Quoting another scientist's description of McConnell, Kwiram said, "He doesn't just have ideas, he has breakthroughs."

McConnell is noted for pioneering theoretical work on applications of nuclear magnetic resonance to the electronic structure and chemical kinetics. He also introduced a new biophysical technique known as spin-labeling.

McConnell recently has moved into molecular and cellular biology with his studies of antibody of structure and antigen



Linus Pauling

recognition by lymphocytes, according to a University press release.

Pauling, who was the first to receive the award in 1966, concluded the ceremony with a talk on icosahedral quasicrystals.

Pauling, a native Oregonian, has been honored with two Nobel Prizes in the last 33 years. He received the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1954 and the Nobel Peace Prize in 1962.

McConnell's long list of awards and accomplishments include most recently the Wolf Prize; Distinguished Alumni Award, CIT; the ISCO Award; the Dickens Prize for Science from Carnegie-Mellon University;

and Elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He is also the founder of the Molecular Devices Corporation in Palo Alto, Calif.

After receiving the award, McConnell spoke about the advantages of having scientific industrial parks near research institutions, noting the University's Riverfront Research Park project.

Research parks are absolutely crucial in terms of science, McConnell said.

"I think faculty people in general are wasted talent. They can only teach students so fast," said McConnell, claiming that faculty can use their excess energy researching at industrial parks.

In addition, research parks are economically constructive in providing additional jobs in the community, he said.

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