

Conveying Curiosity, Passion, and Information through Science Communication

By Desmond Hartwell Murray

“... the public needs to understand what scientists are doing so that they can support it when it's in their interest.”

— Alan Alda, Actor, Writer, Director, and co-Founder of the Alda Center for Communicating Science.

Scientists are passionate about their work of seeking and finding new knowledge. Upon the occasion of winning the 1965 Nobel Prize in Physics, Richard Feynman observed, “... I've already got the prize. The prize is the pleasure of finding things out.” So, when scientists speak about what they do they should convey their passion and natural curiosity along with the information. The Andrews University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry seminar program provides an opportunity and venue for this connective transfer between scientist and audience.

This school year will be the 58th anniversary of the department annual guest lecture series. The series was formally renamed the Dwain L Ford Guest Lecture Series eight years ago in honor of our beloved Department Chair and Organic Chemistry teacher, the late Professor Dwain L Ford, who started our seminar program. Ford also started the Berrien County Forensic Lab on the campus of Andrews University.

This year's series features five guest speakers during the Fall 2023 semester and fourteen during the Spring 2024 semester. The presentations will include topics on asthma, immortal cells, forever chemicals, green chemistry, electron flow, inclusivity in science outreach, materials that do mechanical work in response to light, storage of hazardous waste, popularizing chemistry, conversion of carbon dioxide into useful materials, astrochemistry, biodegradation of plastics, silicone chemistry, sustainable electrochemistry, polymer chemistry, and insights from the intersection of science and theology.

Our speakers come from around the world including the United States, Canada, Australia, Sweden, and Switzerland. Their affiliations include Karolinska Institute, BeyondBenign, Wolfram Research, Pace Labs, Dow Chemical Company, Cypress Community College, Washington Adventist University, Southern Methodist University, Trent University, York University, Princeton University, Rutgers University, West Virginia University, Colorado State University, ETZ Zurich, University of California (Riverside and Berkeley), University of Sydney, and University of Notre Dame.

This annual Guest Lecture Series is another way Andrews University, the premier institution of higher education in Southwest Michigan and Andrews University Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry seeks to bring world-class education, information, and experts, not just to its students but to the entire surrounding community and beyond. These public science lectures are all Zoom-based at 4:30pm (EST) on Thursdays and are open to the entire university community. The lecture series is co-sponsored by the Andrews University Office of Research and Creative Scholarship and by Andrews University Community Engagement Council. Each week notifications would be sent out broadly across multiple media platforms, including in the *Benton Spirit*

Community Newspaper providing more specific and detailed information of the upcoming lecture, guest speaker and the Zoom link.

All are invited to join our free year-long lecture series. In the past our online audience has been campus-wide, local, regional, national and international. All lectures will be recorded, uploaded and publicly

accessible on YouTube. Past recorded lectures can be found on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLApQC7VKzBW18FKws0_rpG1eeVUNSauPX_. If you have questions, please contact Dr. Desmond Hartwell Murray, series coordinator and Associate Professor of Chemistry at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan (murrayd@andrews.edu).



DWAIN L FORD GUEST LECTURE SERIES

4:30PM EST on THURSDAYS; Zoom ID: 978 1449 2131

Andrews University Chemistry and Biochemistry Seminar: Fifty-Eight Years of Lectures and Tradition

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER
9/07/23	Chemistry and Biochemistry of Asthma	Craig Wheelock Karolinska Institute, Sweden
9/14/23	Science and Ethics of HeLa Cancer Cells	Ivan Martinez West Virginia University
9/28/23	Measuring Electron Flow	Hans Jakob Woerner ETH Zurich, Switzerland
10/05/23	Detection of PFAS	Graham Peaslee University of Notre Dame
10/12/23	Green Chemistry: The Missing Elements	John Warner BeyondBenign
1/11/24	Empowering Inclusivity in STEM Community Engagement	Nicole Kelp Colorado State University
1/18/24	Photomechanical Materials	Christopher Bardeen University of California, Riverside
1/25/24	Storage of Hazardous Waste	Ashutosh Goel Rutgers University
2/01/24	Public Science and Popularizing Chemistry	Theodore Gray Wolfram Research
2/08/24	Utilizing Transition Metal Complexes to Repurpose CO ₂	Alissa Christina Matus Cypress Community College
2/15/24	Astrochemistry	Jennifer Bergner University of California, Berkeley
2/22/24	Determining Lewis Acidity Using Fluorescence	Thomas Baumgartner York University, Toronto, Canada
2/29/24	Biodegradation of Polypropylene Polymers	Amira Farzana Samat University of Sydney, Australia
3/07/24	Electrochemical Conversion of Carbon Dioxide	Andrew Bocarsly Princeton University
3/14/24	Silicone Chemistry and Applications	Danielle Berry Dow Chemical Company
3/28/24	Academic <i>versus</i> Industrial Chemistry	Jonathan Neidigh Pace Labs
4/04/24	Sustainable Electrochemistry	Sanela Martic Trent University, Ontario, Canada
4/11/24	Polymer Chemistry	David Y Son Southern Methodist University
4/18/24	Insights at the Intersection of Science and Theology	Olive J Hemmings Washington Adventist University

“We change the way you live and die.” — Chemistry Professor George Whitesides, Harvard University