ES&T

Environmental Chemistry Loses a Pioneer

In Memoriam: Glen E. Gordon

By Julian Josephson

Atmospheric researcher

Glen Everett Gordon of the University of Maryland, the chemist who pioneered the concept and use of "receptor models," died of pneumonia on Jan. 13, 1992, at the age of 56. Using receptor models allows one to determine sources of airborne particles by capturing these particles and analyzing by nuclear methods the elements they carry. This work earned Gordon the American Chemical Society's Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science and Technology. It was to have been presented at this year's ACS National Meeting, where Gordon was to have chaired a symposium in his honor and presented a paper on receptor modeling.

Receptor modeling has become so well established that EPA now recommends that state and local authorities use it to devise air pollution control plans. At the time of his death, Gordon was working on expanding the concept to the determination of sources of particles in global atmospheric circulation. He also was studying ways to use receptor modeling to tackle problems such as acid deposition and haze.

Gordon was a frequent contributor to *ES&T*. His articles could be understood by readers only slightly familiar with the chemistry of air pollution. Several articles come to mind: "Receptor Models" (1980, *14*, 792–800); an updated "Receptor Models" (1988, *22*, 1132–42); and the recent "Airborne Particles on Global and Regional Scales" (1991, *25*, 1822–27). In this last article, Gordon ably introduces the science of detecting and "sourcing" particles on a global scale.

I had the pleasure of working with Gordon on a review of a book about acid rain [*Acid Rain: Rhetoric and Reality*, by Chris C. Park (Methuen/Chapman & Hall, New York, 1987)]. Although I requested his aid on short notice, Gordon quickly and cheerfully agreed, and wrote a review which I use as a model for others. Gordon was always eager to help the Washington editorial staff of *ES&T*, and could be counted on to write a readable, highly informative article.

Gordon was born in Keokuk, IA. He received his B.S. degree at the University of Illinois in 1956 and his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley, in 1960. He started his career as an instructor in chemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1960, where by 1969 he was an associate professor. He then came to the University of Maryland, rising to full professor in 1973.

Gordon won other awards, including the ACS Award for Nuclear Applications in Chemistry (1977), sponsored by G. D. Searle, given in recognition of his development of several nuclear methods for multielement analyses. He had more than 80 publications in refereed journals, wrote or coauthored seven books, and contributed to 41 more. He also consulted and, from 1985 to 1986, was associate editor of the *Journal of Geophysical Research*.

Gordon will be sadly missed at the ACS National Meeting in April. He lives on, however, through the knowledge and practical applications developed from his pioneering research and through the work that other scientists will do, inspired by his example.

Julian Josephson is an associate editor on the Washington staff of ES&T.

0013-936X/92/0926-634$03.00/0