



## Forward

Mary Rodgers first approached me about a Special Issue honoring Bill Hase in summer, 2004. It happens that Bill was turning 60 during the Ion Chemistry Gordon Conference held in Ventura, February 27 to March 4, 2005 and that he was coincidentally chairing that conference. Mary wondered if we could possibly do a “fast track” Special Issue and present it to him at the conference. After getting enthusiastic support from Editors Scott McLuckey and Helmut Schwarz, we decided to take the plunge. We approached Bill and he consented to us going forward. We put together a list of people we thought might want to contribute and asked Bill to do the same. This turned out to be the rate-limiting step! Mary got Bill’s list on August 29th and on September 1st our inaugural invitation letter went out. We needed to have a leather-bound finished product in Santa Barbara by February 20, 2005. That only left  $5\frac{1}{2}$  months!! We had to set a “deadline” for receipt of manuscripts of November 15th and a “final deadline” of December 15th for acceptance of the manuscripts. That only left Elsevier 8 weeks to put the issue together if everything went on time.

By the first of November, we had 19 papers promised and seven maybes. Of this group, there are at least 20 and hopefully 21 papers that will have survived the review process and been forwarded to Elsevier. The reason for the uncertain number is I am still expecting submission of the 21st paper to arrive within the next hour. It is now 2 days past the final “deadline” for submission to Elsevier, however, they have promised to turbo charge the last few papers so they can be included. The first paper arrived on November 3rd from Tom Baer’s group and yours truly submitted two papers on November 8th. In all, ten papers arrived by the November 15th “deadline” and 17 by December 1st. The reviewers of all papers deserve special thanks for providing quick but in-depth responses. Special thanks goes to an unknown reviewer of one of my papers who provided a five page REREVIEW that included some complex DFT calculations and some graphics!! He/she even offered to let us use the results! It turned out not to be necessary, but greatly appreciated!

Of the 21 papers in the Special Issue, three are purely theoretical and most of the rest combine experiment and theory. This is entirely fitting. While Bill is clearly an excellent theorist, he always has his eye on experiment. He seeks out, and is sought out by, experimentalists for collaborative work to the benefit of everyone involved.

Bill Hase has a special place in my honor roll of scientists. In the early stages of my career, our group got involved in collisional and kinetic theory since essentially none existed in ion chemistry at the time (I’m even older than Bill!). While we were (and are still) primarily an experimental group, I was fortunate to have two extraordinary people take an interest in theory: Tim Su, who is currently a Professor of Chemistry at the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and the late Walt Chesnavich. Well, Bill was just beginning to develop his career at Wayne State and unlike almost all other theorists, thought ionic systems were not only interesting but important (they hadn’t yet been discovered by the P-Chem mainstream). I remember many discussions with Bill in those early years and the encouragement and gentle criticism he gave to this “experimentalist”. We had a few minor disagreements that weren’t always easily resolved but usually they came from “different perspectives” rather than “right or wrong” and highlighted the passion that both of us have for science. And if anyone spends any time at all discussing science with Bill, you quickly realize he not only knows what he is talking about, he also cares about what he is talking about!

Rumor has it Bill was once (still is??) a single digit handicap golfer. I have repeatedly tried to verify this without success. I am going to see if I can induce him to bring his clubs to Ventura in February. If he does, the game will be a 60th birthday treat on me. However, full disclosure will occur in the evening session that night!!

Thanks again to all of you that made the effort to contribute to this “special” Special Issue, and to the reviewers that so willingly turned the manuscripts around so quickly. Thanks also goes to Elsevier for its flexibility and for its continuing willingness to work with the IJMS editors to put out a first-class product. This is a great issue in honor of a great scientist and I hope you get as much pleasure reading it as Mary and I did putting it together. Hope to see you in Ventura.

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