



Photo by unknown photographer

The field of chemical kinetics has a unity and a connectedness across its various levels of abstraction that should be understood and appreciated by all its practitioners.

—Harold S. Johnston, *Ber. Bunsen-Ges. Phys. Chem.* **1968**, 72, 959

Introduction to Harold Johnston Festschrift

This Festschrift issue of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry A* celebrates the distinguished career of Harold Johnston. His scientific odyssey is exemplary for pioneering research in chemical kinetics and atmospheric science, for inspiring teaching and mentoring, for generous service in administration, for consulting and advising on issues impacting public welfare, and for steadfastly advocating policies grounded in sound science.

The research papers contributed to this issue all exhibit Hal's influence, in content, style, or motivation. About half of the articles are based on talks presented in a symposium in his honor held on March 26–28, 2000, at the San Francisco meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Hal has reciprocated in characteristically creative fashion. He designed and commissioned an artistic cover that depicts several major research adventures, with delightful whimsy. He provided an engaging autobiographical sketch, tracing his trajectory from a bucolic village in Georgia to the academic groves of Caltech, Stanford, and Berkeley. He also contributed a carefully annotated bibliography of his scientific work, which offers both

important historical perspectives and illuminating commentary on fundamental chemical mechanisms and principles. This will be a valuable resource for anyone undertaking the study of chemical kinetics, reaction rate theory, photochemistry, or atmospheric science.

Like those privileged to know Hal personally, readers of his articles and particularly his classic text, *Gas Phase Reaction Rate Theory*, will appreciate his exacting standards and forthright assessments, as well as his apt humor and philosophical outlook. In his research and teaching, “unity and connectedness” has been a favorite leitmotif. As an avid opera fan, he will enjoy noting that this theme is indeed prominent in the papers of this Festschrift.

Dudley Herschbach, *Guest Editor*
Charles E. Miller, *Guest Editor*
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