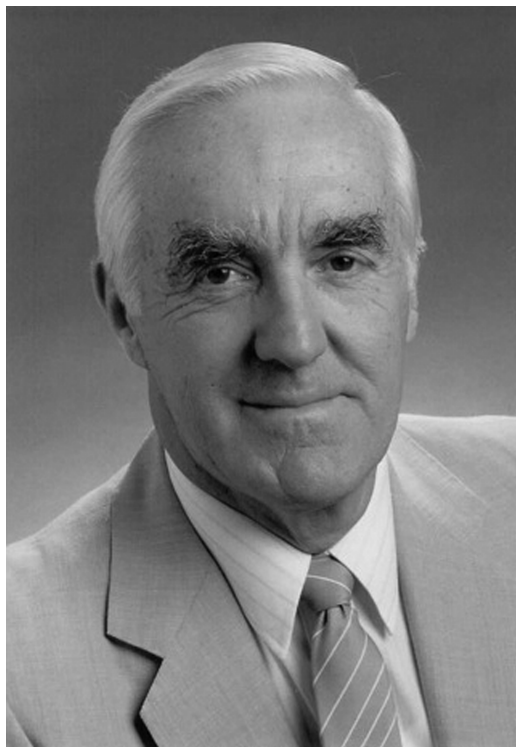


Robert W. Lenz



Robert W. Lenz passed away on July 2, 2010. Bob, as his friends knew him, was well-known as an innovative polymer chemist and educator and as a mentor and friend to numerous members of the polymer community. As Editor of *Macromolecules*, Bob oversaw its growth into a substantial bimonthly journal, all the while enhancing its impact throughout the polymer chemistry community. A great-grandfather, Bob is survived by his wife, Madeleine; his children, Kathy Cunningham, Douglas Lenz, Cindy Goodman, and Suzanne Lenz; his brother Henry; and seven grandchildren, as well as his one great-grandchild.

A chemical engineer by training, Bob received his B.S. from Lehigh University in 1949 and then continued his studies at the Institute of Textile Technology, where he received an M.S. degree in 1951. He earned a Ph.D. in polymer chemistry from both the SUNY College of Forestry and Syracuse University in 1956. Following graduation he worked in the textile and polymer industry. He was employed for several years with the Dow Chemical Company at both its Polymer Research Laboratory and its Eastern Research Laboratories. During this period he wrote his landmark monograph, *The Organic Chemistry of Synthetic High Polymers*, which has remained the model for textbooks in the field of polymer chemistry since its first publication in 1967.

Bob spent his academic career at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, joining the faculty in 1966 as one of the early members of the Polymer Science and Engineering program, until his retirement in 1995. During that period of almost 30 years, he was an extraordinarily productive and innovative researcher in

the field of condensation polymer chemistry. At Amherst his research group pioneered studies in a number of important areas, including liquid crystalline polymers, conducting polymers, and—toward the end of his career—polymers made via bacterial polymerization.

During his distinguished career, he served as an organizer of several Gordon Research Conferences, was a member of the IUPAC Macromolecular Division, and not only won the ACS Award in Polymer Chemistry and the Society of Polymer Science Japan Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Polymer Science but also enjoyed the signal honor of serving as Eminent Scientist at the Institute for Chemical and Physical Research, Saitama, Japan.

Bob was an excellent teacher, an outstanding role model, and a superb mentor to graduate students and postdoctoral associates alike. He cared about younger scientists and went out of his way to help them at the start of their careers. Held in great affection by his colleagues, collaborators, and group members, he was host to many international researchers, and was an effective early advocate of international cooperation. He collaborated regularly with many of the most distinguished international researchers in polymer chemistry, most notably with scientists from Korea, Italy, Germany, Japan, and China. Bob will be greatly missed by the entire society of his friends, pupils, and peers throughout the world of polymer science.

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