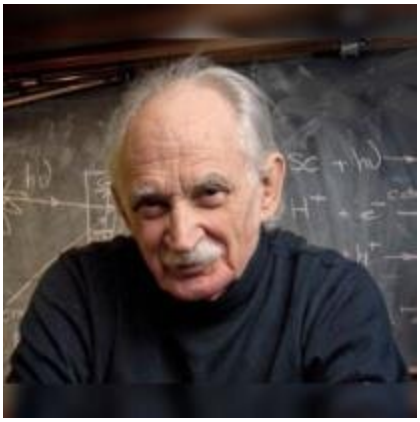

Allen Joseph Bard

December 18, 1933 - February 11, 2024

Dr. Allen Joseph Bard, a renowned chemistry professor and esteemed member of the scientific community, passed away on February 11, 2024, in Austin, Texas at the age of 90. Born on December 18, 1933, in New York, Allen dedicated over 60 years of his life to his work at the University of Texas, however his impact was far reaching and he came to be known worldwide as the father of modern electrochemistry.

Educated at the Bronx High School of Science, Allen continued his academic journey at City College of New York, where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree. He furthered his studies at Harvard University, obtaining both his Master's and Ph.D. degrees.

During his tenure at UT Austin from 1958 until his death, Allen's impact as a professor of chemistry was immeasurable. His dedication to his craft and his students earned him the respect of his colleagues and the admiration of countless aspiring chemists. In 1990, he was elected as a Fellow of the National Academy of Science, solidifying his standing as a leading figure within his field.

Although Allen was an accomplished scientist, he viewed himself first and foremost as a teacher. He held his students as his greatest professional accomplishment and always wanted his legacy to be the next generations of

scientists. Despite his complete lack of interest in any sort of acknowledgement for his accomplishments, his exceptional contributions to the field of chemistry nonetheless garnered widespread recognition. In addition to having over 1,000 peer-reviewed published research papers, and multiple books, he also has received over 30 patents. Allen was the recipient of numerous prestigious awards, including the Priestley Award, the Welch Award, the Wolf Prize, the Fermi Award, and the National Medal of Science, the latter two of which were presented to him by President Obama. His dedication and expertise also led to an honorary doctorate from Texas A&M University, a source of great pride for him, although his Longhorn family members can't fathom why.

Beyond his scientific achievements, Allen was known for his unwavering commitment to doing what was right. As an early career professional, without the safety-net of tenure and status, he quietly played a pivotal role in overturning a university policy that prevented women and black graduate students from receiving payment for their teaching or research. His belief in fairness and equality left a lasting impact on the academic community.

His impact is far reaching beyond the confines of his profession and Allen's passing will be felt deeply in the lives of his loved ones. He is survived by his son Ed, daughter Sara, and grandchildren Alex, Marlee, Rachel, and Dylan. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife Fran, his father Jack, his mother Dora, his brother Seldon, and his sister Shirley. The Bard family wishes to thank Cindy Zoski for her many years of loving care and dedication.

For those who wish to honor Allen's memory, contributions can be made to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in support of scientific research and education.

Allen J. Bard's legacy will continue to inspire future generations of

changemakers, and his name will forever be associated with the field of electrochemistry. His passion, humility, and steadfast convictions in equity and justice will be cherished, remembered, and continued by all who knew him.

Previous Events

Computer Accessible Graveside Service

FEB **14**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page
http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals

A live stream will appear on the Austin Natural Funerals Facebook page a few minutes before 10AM. A Facebook account is not required to watch. If a pop-up window appears asking you to log in click "not now" and the live stream will be available for you to watch. If the "not now" button does not appear, scroll down on the page and it will come up for you to select.

Graveside Service

FEB **14**. 10:00 AM (CT)

Austin Memorial Park
2800 Hancock Dr.
Austin, TX 78731

Tribute Wall

EH

Alan and I were friends, student political allies, and fraternity brothers at City College. I remember him as brilliant, friendly, and consistently honorable. His decease saddens me as it must have saddened so many other people who learned about it before I did. The world needs a great many more people like Alan Bard. Regards and fond rembrances to Fran. -- Emanuel Halper

Emanuel B. Halper - June 09, 2025 at 08:55 PM

MM

I worked in the Chemisty Library in Welch Hall from 1980-1984. I checked out books and shelved books. Dr. Bard came in from time to time to look up articles, etc. before the time of the internet and when computers were run by card board punched cards. He was very nice to me and obviously very smart. I really liked him and felt he was very genuine and caring. I took notice of him because I had attended Anderson High School and graduated in 1980. His daughter Sara Bard was my classmate. May his memory be eternal. Megyn Busse MD, Pediatric Ophthalmology Austin Texas.

Megyn Leonor Busse MD - February 14, 2025 at 09:54 AM

DB

I had the honor of having Allen Bard as one of the invited speakers in my MRS Symposium in San Francisco, I think it was 2009.
Since he was already a senior, a really old man, I said to him "Professor Bard, are you still working?" - upon which he responded "Of course I am. I'm an all time worker!"
And then he ran the audience through his presentation slides for five minutes when he suddenly paused, hesitated and then said - oh no, that's the wrong presentation.
And then he searched through his laptop, pulled the right presentation on and kept going. Soon, he wrapped up to the finish, upon which I called "Professor Bard, as invited speaker it is your privilege to speak for 30 minutes, not only 15."
"I know I know, but I need to catch a flight at the airport, I have another talk to give elsewhere ...", he said - and left!
He had the energy of a 25 year old.
I'm writing this today because I learnt another invited speaker from Korea for the MRS Spring Meeting 2025 was one of Bard's recent postdocs. A young Professor.
So I think an important of Dr. Bard's accomplishments is that he generated two new generations of scientists across the globe.

Dr. Artur Braun - October 10, 2024 at 10:27 AM

EF

I completed three years of Postdoctoral work with Dr. Allen Bard in the 90s. The kindest, most compassionate person. I miss you Al and I thank you for all you did for me during some of the most challenging times of my life. I respect you and love you as always! Eddie

Eddie Forouzan - March 03, 2024 at 01:39 AM

GR

Condolences to the Bard family.

gary rodman - March 02, 2024 at 10:25 PM

BS

Brenda Schumacher lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Brenda Schumacher - February 20, 2024 at 02:39 PM

JV

JORGE VALENZUELA lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

JORGE VALENZUELA - February 17, 2024 at 11:05 AM

JP

JORGE VALENZUELA PEDEVILA lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

JORGE VALENZUELA PEDEVILA - February 17, 2024 at 11:03 AM

NX

Nancy Xu lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Nancy Xu - February 16, 2024 at 03:20 AM

DZ

Dongping Zhan lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Dongping Zhan - February 15, 2024 at 09:52 PM

AL

Alan lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Alan - February 15, 2024 at 08:25 AM

JG

Jon Goodman lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Jon Goodman - February 14, 2024 at 07:53 PM

J Andy Lee lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

J Andy Lee - February 14, 2024 at 06:00 PM

SP

Shanlin Pan lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Shanlin Pan - February 14, 2024 at 02:55 PM

Michael Weber lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Michael Weber - February 14, 2024 at 02:36 PM

AB

Alex Boika lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Alex Boika - February 14, 2024 at 02:08 PM

SC

Shaowei Chen lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Shaowei Chen - February 14, 2024 at 12:07 PM

RL

Rebecca Lai lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Rebecca Lai - February 14, 2024 at 12:00 PM

WZ

Many memories flush back to me from my two postdoc years in Al's lab. Work is not work for Al but passion; one Saturday I saw him taking one of his grandchildren (visiting him from Oregon) to the lab to try some experiments. So humble and gentle. When I mixed up some chemistry terminology, he fetched a scientific dictionary to show I was wrong. That act, more than being criticized or laughed at, reminded me that I should know better. So approachable and human. I still remember the excitement in his eyes talking about Texas winning 2005 national football championship. Al, I miss you!

Wei Zhan - February 14, 2024 at 10:57 AM

David Cliffel lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

David Cliffel - February 14, 2024 at 10:26 AM

JY

Jin Yang lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Jin Yang - February 14, 2024 at 09:14 AM

GK

Gopalakrishnan KUMAR lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Gopalakrishnan KUMAR - February 14, 2024 at 06:29 AM

XZ

Xinsheng Zhang lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Xinsheng Zhang - February 14, 2024 at 03:23 AM

JD

Jingjing Duan lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Jingjing Duan - February 14, 2024 at 02:43 AM

HH

1 file added to the album Early Career

Harvey Herman - February 13, 2024 at 09:50 PM

AB

This is fantastic--I've never seen this!

Alex Bard - February 14, 2024 at 12:23 AM

HO

Honglan lit a candle in memory of Allen Joseph Bard

Honglan - February 13, 2024 at 08:45 PM

PU

As an old colleague, I would like to say:-
Allen Joseph Bard has been a truly remarkable man. An amazing man - a wonderful teacher - a man of great patience - such a nice man!
Allen Joseph Bard's legacy to the scientific community is huge.
I am grateful to have been his colleague. It was a privilege to know him.
My condolences to his family.
Phil Magnus

P.D. Magnus (Prof. Emeritus UT) - February 13, 2024 at 07:43 PM