



2016 Alumni Achievement award in Chemistry and Biochemistry



Alan S. Waggoner

Carnegie Mellon University

Friday, October 14, 2016

Event hosts: Vickie DeRose and Michael Pluth

Save the Date! The winner of this year's Alumni Achievement Award, UO Alumnus Alan Waggoner (Ph.D. 1969) will give a talk on Friday, 14-Oct-2016 and be honored at a banquet dinner that evening.

The Department of Chemistry Alumni Award program was established to honor our successful alumni, to provide our current students with inspiring role models, and to instill in them the confidence to succeed in their scientific careers.

BIO SKETCH

Alan Waggoner is the Max and Gloria Connan Professor in the Department of Biological Sciences in Carnegie Mellon University's Mellon College of Science.

Waggoner earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Colorado and his Ph.D. with Professor Hayes Griffith at the University of Oregon. After completing postdoctoral work at Yale University, Waggoner was chairman of the Department of Chemistry at Amherst College before coming to Carnegie Mellon in 1982. In 1992 Waggoner left Carnegie Mellon to become vice chairman of Biological Detection Systems Inc., a Pittsburgh startup that sold microscope imaging systems and fluorescent-labeling reagents developed at Carnegie Mellon. In 1994, this startup was bought by Amersham PLC and Waggoner joined that company as Principal Scientist and Head of Fluorescence to promote a transition from radioactive to fluorescence detection products. In May 1999, Waggoner returned to Carnegie Mellon as

director of the Molecular Biosensor and Imaging Center (MBIC). Under his leadership, the MBIC has become world renowned for its expertise in biochemistry, genetics, dye chemistry, and imaging. During this time he became PI of one of the 3 NIH Technology Centers for Networks and Pathways, a position he held until August 2014.

Waggoner focuses his research on development of fluorescence detection tools for biological research and drug discovery. He is known for his fluorescent dyes that allow scientists to illuminate the mysteries hidden inside cells. Waggoner's cyanine dyes in particular have played a significant role in analyzing how genes switch on and off, and how cells and tissues are regulated. Today, fluorescence-detection is a multi-billion dollar industry that provides the foundation of many different technologies used in disease diagnosis and treatment as well as for basic biological studies.