

## Roger S. Porter



Roger Porter, 1983 recipient of the Mettler Award in Thermal Analysis and 1987 president of NATAS, died on August 25, 1998 at the age of 70. He was professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts and first head of the school's renowned polymer science and engineering department until 1976, after which he continued his research on the characterization and rheology of liquid crystals and other polymers. He is survived by his wife, Catharine, and four children.

Professor Porter was educated at the University of California Los Angeles and the University of Washington. He worked at the renowned California Research Corporation (later Chevron Research) in Richmond, CA with Julian Johnson and Ed Barrall among others before joining the UMass faculty in 1966. He retired in January 1997 after 30 years as a faculty member.

One of his major inventions was a polymer strand that is 10 times stronger than steel, but more flexible. The strands are made of polyethylene, a common plastic used to make products ranging from soda bottles to Frisbees to bulletproof vests. His other achievements included more than 480 scientific papers, 27 review articles, and 15 book chapters. He wrote or co-edited 10 books. In the field of thermal analysis he is well known for his Analytical Calorimetry series with Julian Johnson, proceedings of several American Chemical Society International Symposia on Analytical Calorimetry from 1968 to 1977. He received numerous research awards and made numerous technical presentations at meetings of the American Chemical Society and similar organizations, including at the inaugural event of the Golden Gate Polymer Forum in 1980. Professor Porter was a member of several professional societies, including the ACS, the Society of Rheology, the American Physical Society, and NATAS. He was a fellow of both NATAS and APS.

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