

*UWAASA Centenary Award 2013 for an Academic No Longer Working at, or Retired from, UWA – Dr Jack Cannon*

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Enthusiasm is the heart of good teaching and Dr Jack Cannon, a long time staff member of the Department of Chemistry at UWA, was exceptional in this regard. He was a charismatic teacher of undergraduates and research mentor for Honours and postgraduate students in organic chemistry, particularly natural products chemistry.

Dr Cannon lead by example with his meticulous experimental approach to research. He was extremely hard working and always exhibited concern for the welfare of his students, encouraging them beyond the teaching environment and long after students had graduated and were pursuing careers in academia and research.

One of Jack's students claims his personal influence encouraged him to pursue the path of organic chemistry, when he had previously intended to focus on physical chemistry.

*“He had a personal influence on me and my subsequent academic career in organic and medical chemistry at the University of Tasmania and then the University of Wollongong. I was leaning very much towards physical chemistry as my major interest but then Jack Cannon gave his third year course in heterocyclic chemistry. Jack brought the subject to life. I still recall the day he brought some crystals of an organic compound into one lecture and passed them around. They were beautiful, extremely long, reddish-purple needles and so different from anything I had seen before in the organic realm. A number of students in the class then decided to take on further studies in organic chemistry” - Emeritus Professor John Bremner*

Dr Cannon invested an enormous energy to foster the development of chemistry in South East Asia. By working with and mentoring international students in their Honours Degree, he found he was in a unique position to form an ongoing association with Thai Chemists and later with chemists from many countries in the region. Dr Cannon's leadership was pivotal in encouraging other Australian academic staff to be involved collaboratively in South East Asia. Research in the region continues to flourish.

In recognition of his many contributions, Dr Cannon received a Citation Award of the Federation of Asian Chemical Societies and was later honoured with a Life-Time Membership of the Federation.

He has also been honoured with a UNESCO Einstein Gold Medal and Honorary DSc Degrees from Prince of Songkla University and UWA, and was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.

Jack Cannon always sought, and continues to speak, wisdom and never ceases to encourage others to do likewise. His enthusiasm, expert knowledge and guidance, integrity, tolerance and openness are directed to the advancement of knowledge and personal development of others for the greater good.