

Rutgers
AAUP-AFT
Retiree

Reporter

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THE CHAIRPERSON'S CORNER

Benjamin R. Beede

We agreed on what was essentially a re-write of our bylaws, and we have adopted a new title. Our connection with the Rutgers AAUP-AFT has been clarified, and we now have an elected representative on the AAUP-AFT Executive Council with voting power for the first time. Thus, we can look back at 2017 with considerable satisfaction and, indeed, pleasure.

Ann Gordon and Jon Laurie deserve our thanks for their extensive work on the bylaws. I was on the sidelines, but I can attest to the significant amount of time, effort, and, above all, thought that they devoted to the bylaws revision. We need to thank Dick Bumby for his having accepted the position of webmaster. He has already improved our website, which required changes. On a continuing basis Judith Friedman, Paul Leath, and Felice Schragger invite stimulating speakers to our meetings and otherwise ensure that the all-important task of program planning moves forward. After an absence for medical reasons, Don Borchardt is back to editing our newsletter, ably assisted by Isabel Wolock. These people are all fine team players. Nevertheless, we would appreciate more team members in some areas; so please think about assuming a more active role in the Retiree Assembly.

Wasson Award 2017

ANN GORDON

This year the Retiree Assembly has presented the Wasson Award to Ann Gordon. She has had a distinguished career as the editor of the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Papers project, housed here at Rutgers. Ann received her Ph.D. in American History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and before coming to Rutgers in 1982, she had been

involved in other editing projects, including working on the papers of Jane Addams and Woodrow Wilson. Since becoming emerita, Ann has been active in the Retiree Assembly. In particular, attention is called to her work in helping to prepare and revise our new by-laws, which were adopted last fall. The Wasson award is not only for leadership activity within the Retiree Assembly. It is also based on contributions to the growth and stability of our organization. Be it as a speaker, or as one working to strengthen the ties between the retirees and the Rutgers AAUP, or as one to assist in placing the future of the group on a sound footing—Ann richly deserves the Richard Wasson Leadership Award for 2017.

Reported by Jonathan Lurie

EDITORS:
Donald Borchardt &
Isabel Wolock



Presentation by Michael K. Gusmano
"Trump, Obamacare, and American Federalism:
Polarization and Policy Feedbacks"
September 19, 2017

"Trump, Obamacare, and American Federalism: Polarization and Policy Feedbacks," and the Executive Branch," a presentation by Michael K. Gusmano, Associate Professor of Health Policy, Rutgers School of Public Health. Held at the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT building, 11 Stone Street, New

Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-1280, on September 19, 2017. The following are notes taken by Benjamin R. Beede, Secretary of the Emeriti Assembly.

Dr. Gusmano holds an M.A. and a Ph.D., both in political science, from the University of Maryland at College Park, and an M.A. in health policy from SUNY at Albany. His pursuit of degrees in political science stemmed from his interest in health policy. His extensive publication record includes dozens of peer-reviewed journal articles. He is in heavy demand as a speaker at institutions across the globe. The depth of his often comparative research indicates that he is making a significant contribution to policy studies beyond health policy research.

Dr. Gusmano began his presentation by emphasizing how controversial Obamacare has become, with many saying that it is a legitimate program and others asserting that it is "a socialist nightmare." The Trump administration wishes to scale back or eliminate the commitment to health programs and hopes for a "bad year" for them.

ACA really involves government financing of health care. Decades ago, during the Progressive Era, such plans enjoyed a considerable degree of support. Because they were regarded of German origin, though, World War I brought a revulsion against them. In the New Deal era and after, liberals favored health care maintenance by the federal government, seeing it as similar to the widely accepted Social Security system.

Medicare reduced the size of the constituency favoring changes in health policy. Enlargement of federal intervention in the health sphere was caught up with political conflict and, especially, intensified polarization in the discussion of policy issues. Medicare was said to be the model for ACA, but, in reality, Medicaid was the pattern. Effectively, Medicare was an extension of Medicaid. The individual mandate came from the conservative Heritage Foundation. Meanwhile, Governor Romney of Massachusetts established a program that presaged ACA.

ACA federalized the regulation of health insurance practices, which had been a state responsibility. Notably, the federal law prohibited the use of pre-existing conditions to set premium levels. Many states, indeed, sued, claiming that the mandate was unconstitutional, although, in fact, the states continued to have a significant role.

Medicaid provides considerable amounts of funding to the states, but the extreme polarization of the political parties led to great conflict and the rejection of much of this funding. The situation challenged Republican state leaders to decide whether they wanted the funds or had to reject them out of party loyalty. Republicans in Congress proposed cuts in sending funds to the states, moreover. There have also been drastic changes in public opinion in regard to health funding. Hospitals, the American Medical Association, and insurance firms have supported Obamacare.

The Obama administration used waivers to foster state expansion of Medicaid, but that technique is

now being used to scale back Medicaid. The Department of Health and Human Services is trying actively to undermine programs that are its responsibility. The Trump administration also wishes to weaken the enforcement of IRS notation of "coverage status."

ACA is a patchwork quilt that attempts to provide health coverage, and it has become remarkably unpopular. Because gerrymandering has given many members of the House of Representative safe seats, they can support ACA reductions confidently. ACA has done nothing to control costs, which will increase, owing to the erosion of people's coverage from other sources.

What happens outside Medicare will affect people who are enrolled in that program, moreover. There will be a slow shift of costs to individuals. The goal should be the minimal erosion of what we have in the way of health care protection.

**Presentation by Daniel Ogilvie
"For Heaven's Sake!"
November 21, 2017**

According to the results of an international survey conducted in 2007, most people worldwide believe they possess souls. This is not a simple majority. On average, "most people" is a whopping majority; 100% in some countries, down to 73% in other countries, and 96% in the United States. It is consequential that the majority of people that believe they are in possession of immaterial souls also believe their souls will depart and go somewhere when their material bodies die. In other words, bodies are finite, souls are infinite. Heaven is the customary hope—the destination for souls. Less pleasant options are also available. Either way, the majority view is there is life after death. Early in life, human beings are taught that supernatural agents (e.g. gods) determine final resting locations for souls. Souls will be judged on how vigorously they followed the rules of conduct set forth by the doctrines of their religions and reinforced by their cultures. In this age of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), that's a very serious problem given the fact that the rules of conduct for one religious group sometimes direct its members to distrust, harm, or even eliminate members of other religious groups. Access to Heaven will be difficult for those who disobey these instructions.

Professor Emeritus, Rutgers Department of Psychology and Retiree Assembly member Daniel Ogilvie spoke about soul and afterlife beliefs in his talk to the Assembly on November 21, 2017 under the title "The Physiology, Psychology, and Politics of Fear." His alternative title for the talk, "For Heaven's Sake!" offers a clue to the direction he was to take.

The Physiology of Fear

The speaker reiterated the fact that most people believe their souls will survive the death of their bodies,

but in most individual cases it is a beneath-the-surface belief. It is a powerful non-conscious *assumption* upon which other beliefs become attached and maintained. Buried in the web of neural connections (in the depth of our psyches one might say), afterlife beliefs protect us from being flooded by the **fear of death**. Ogilvie delayed talking about the human fear of death until he unpacked some basic research on the physiology of fear in research with mammals.

Imagine a rat foraging for food in an alley and suddenly a cat appears. The rat freezes, ready to fight or take flight. Remarkably, it does so milliseconds before it even processes the visual image of the cat. That's because the rat's visual cord passes through critical receptors in its midbrain on its way to the visual system located at the rear its brain and has already prepared its body to react. That's the result of millions of years of evolution.

It is important to note that the rat's midbrain transports signals to the body through the brainstem. Ogilvie informed his audience that henceforth he would refer to these structures (the midbrain and the brainstem) as the **old brain**. Old brain structures are vital to the survival of all mammals...including human beings. Don't be fooled by relatively large structures contained in images or depictions of human brains referred to as the cerebral cortex. Typically these pictures include the brainstem, but midbrain structures tucked beneath the cerebrum appear to be almost incidental.

For the sake of convenience, the speaker referred to cerebral cortex as the **new brain**. The new brain is an outgrowth of portion of the old brain. Like most things that developed over millions of years, it's a challenge to deconstruct brain structures and functions. But once again, the speaker (over-) simplified connections between the old brain and the new brain by observing that the new brain has access to old brain structures to communicate with the body.

Imagine yourself in front of a display of greeting cards. Your best friend's birthday is coming up and you are searching for the perfect card for the occasion. There are dozens of choices. The search itself is a cerebral activity guided primarily by the forebrain. The forebrain is located in the frontal lobe of the cerebral cortex. One of the forebrain's important functions is to *think*, to *generate* and *test ideas*. You reject several cards because they are inappropriate, or too sappy, or too stupid, or "too not you". Finally you are down to a choice among 3 remaining possibilities and you select the one that *feels* right. By comparison, the other 2 somehow *feel less* right.

This is an instance when your body communicates with your brain through feelings. It is how we are wired. And, for the most part, these ongoing interactions miss or are not available to conscious attention. But brain/ body and body/ brain interactions are constantly occurring. [The speaker referred to Antonio Damasio's book, Descartes' Error, in support of this observation. Damasio argued that "I *feel*, therefore I

am" is a more accurate way of stating the truth of the matter than "I *think*, therefore I am"].

The Psychology of Fear

The imaginary rat in the alley episode relied on its visual, odor, and movement detection systems to sense and prepare for danger. Human beings do that as well. But human beings might be unique among species by being able to set off internal alarm systems by the act of *thinking*. Most thinking takes place primarily in the cerebral cortex, but some new brain thoughts are so powerful that they activate old brain channels that go directly to the body. Just like the rat's fight/ flight reaction to the presence of a cat, a word, thought, or idea can instantly disturb what the speaker referred to as the *internal milieu* of the body. All's well when the internal milieu is in its normal state of balance. But when body organs are swamped by sudden biochemical changes, the body and brain shift into a survival mode. The heart races, pupils enlarge, breathing is accelerated, and the body is awash with a condition that looks like and feels like fear. Fear is an unwelcome feeling. It is painful. The normal reaction is to get rid of it. It should be easy enough to diminish the pain if it is triggered by a thought instead of by an eminent threat to survival, but that's not necessarily so. Take the thought of death, for example. The speaker offered several examples of the horror experienced by children when it occurs to them that ultimately they will die. That thought typically occurs between ages 4 and 6 when youngsters are capable of imagining themselves in the future. The thought of death does not remain in the cerebral cortex for further deliberation. It utilizes primitive old brain structures that place the body on full fight/ flight alert. It becomes a matter of urgency to alleviate the pain.

The child in distress frequently turns to a parent for help in managing the problem. A common response is to assure the child that his/ her soul will survive death and subsequently join loved ones in Heaven. That plants the seed of the idea that "I will continue to live after my body no longer exists if I believe what I am told to believe and follow the rules of my religion." That message serves as a powerful **negative reinforcer**. Negative reinforcement occurs when a stimulus (the idea of eternal life in this instance) removes an aversive stimulus (the thought of death in this instance). In other words, the (implausible, yet widely accepted) idea of life after death serves as a buffer against experiencing the dread of death. If assurances of eternal life after death calm the internal milieu of a child in the throes of panic, the idea will be internalized, remembered, and resist all challenges. Fantasies of survival rely on it.

The Politics of Fear

In the third and final portion of his talk, Ogilvie briefly spoke about how the physiology and psychology of fear can be utilized by politicians. He focused mostly on the victory of Donald Trump when, in a surprise victory, he defeated Hillary Clinton in the presidential race in 2016. One of his most effective strategies was to alarm his live and televised audiences of real or

nonexistent threats to their survival. Hillary Clinton was billed as a demon. (Solution: Lock her up). Mexicans are destroying our communities. (Solution: Build a wall). Muslims kill our citizens and intend to substitute our religion with their religion. (Solution: Ban them from entering the United States). Global warming is a myth that drains our economy and cripples our growth both as individuals and as a nation. (Solution: Shut down the EPA, withdraw from international agreements to slow down pollution, re-open coal mining businesses, etc.).

By activating fears of destruction and death, Trump managed to calm troubled minds and bodies by offering himself and his ideas as solutions. He was also able to mobilize and band together religious groups (especially Evangelicals) by tapping into their primary eternal life defenses against the idea of death. Believe in Trump for their immediate survival and trust God to take care of the rest.

"A Robot's View of the Ocean"

**Joshua T. Kohut
January 16, 2018**

"A Robot's View of the Ocean," a presentation by Joshua T. Kohut, Associate Professor, Marine and Coast Sciences. Held at the Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters, AAUP-AFT building, 11 Stone Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901-1280, on January 16, 2018. The following are notes taken by Benjamin R. Beede, Secretary of the Emeriti Assembly.

The speaker received an undergraduate and a master's degree from the College of Charleston and his Ph.D. from Rutgers. He has remained at Rutgers and he is having an impressive academic career, embracing many publications, consultancy, and student advising.

Dr. Kohut's presentation dealt with ocean observing. Oceans cover 71% of the surface of the globe. Only 3% of the water on earth is fresh. Remarkably, 95% of the oceans remain unexplored. Depths of 36,000 feet, and what occurs at such extremes is largely unknown.

The oceans have a significant impact on climate and weather. Determining how storms behave, for example, is of the greatest importance. Forty per cent of oxygen comes from the ocean. There are also vital economic aspects with regard to shipping, tourism, and harvesting renewable energy from the sea. Robots, which travel through the water and resemble the drones used in the air, are highly effective tools. Along with satellites, they provide continuous monitoring, for example. Contact with robots is maintained by satellite, and commands may be given to the robots, which surface to communicate back to shore. The object is to

create a 4D picture of the oceans, in order to predict changes and to plan in light of that information.

Robots glide through the sea by pulling in and expelling sea water. In 460 missions, only 8 robots, which can be crushed by water depth, have been lost. They can go to depths as deep as 1,000 meters. There are 16 active robots at Rutgers that have been deployed all over the world. The largest glider fleet is run by the United States Navy with about 150 robots. An employer looking for Rutgers graduates.

A recent project has been penguin tracking to detect changes in migration, perhaps owing to climate change. Ship-based oceanographic study is difficult in Antarctica, owing to the harsh weather conditions there. Large vessels used in such studies are owned by the federal government, and some are managed by Rutgers, which owns three small vessels. A project titled "Global Challenges Glider Mission" involves circumnavigating the globe with "gliders," that is, robots, to mimic Magellan's 16th century voyage. This effort includes five ships and five robots.

Returning to storm problems, Dr. Kohut stated that tracking has improved, providing vital information that can guide decisions about population evacuations. Ocean conditions impact hurricane intensity. Such projects are more inter-disciplinary than earlier. There is a high degree of international cooperation in such studies, moreover. The objective is "prediction and mitigation."

Concluding, Dr. Kohut described the pertinent Rutgers academic program, which includes masters-level degrees. Part of the program includes training people from other countries to make studies using the technology existing at Rutgers. There are 35 faculty in Dr. Kohut's unit. In the past two years, eighty independent studies have been undertaken. Ocean and Coastal Sciences involves working with people from other fields and from industries, such as fishing. International co-operation is also essential. Rutgers has produced two documentary films, one of them titled "Atlantic Crossing," in a cooperative project with Mason Gross School of the Arts.

RETIREE ASSEMBLY MEMBERSHIP DUES

The fee for AAUP-AFT Retiree Assembly membership is \$10 per year beginning each September. If you haven't already done so, please send your check to the AAUP-AFT office at 11 Stone Street in New Brunswick to cover the year 2017-18 (sorry, cash cannot be accepted). You may also renew membership for one, two, or three years by paying \$10, \$20, or \$30.

The AAUP-AFT faculty union subsidizes the Retiree Assembly at the rate of \$20 per member who joins by November of any given calendar year.

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN KRENOS

Member AAUP –AFT Retiree Assembly
Former faculty member in the
Chemistry Department

By Isabel Wolock
Treasurer, AAUP-AFT Retiree Assembly

Tell me a little about your position at Rutgers before you retired.

I arrived at *Douglass College* in the fall of 1973 as an *Assistant Professor* in the *Chemistry Department*. The *College of Agriculture* became *Cook College* that year and *Douglass* faculty assumed the role of teaching *Cook* students enrolled in chemistry and math courses, resulting in an increased demand for hiring new faculty in those areas. I was one of the fortunate newbies. Nationally, 1973 was a very poor year for prospective chemistry faculty nationwide.



Dr. John Krenos

The *Rutgers University* structure on the undergraduate level consisted of semi-independent colleges, organized under the so-called Federated Plan. *Rutgers*, *Douglass*, and *University College* offered chemistry programs with individual curricula. On the graduate level, one curriculum with a combined faculty existed. *Rutgers College* dominated by virtue of its size and extensive facilities located on *University Heights*, now the *Busch Campus*.

I began formulating a research program in *Chemical Physics* with start-up funds from the university. My postdoctoral adviser donated essential vacuum equipment, I also used his machine shop at *Harvard* to fabricate new chambers. In addition, *Bell Labs* provided important surplus equipment. Their *Telstar* communication satellite was tested in a large chamber under vacuum conditions; a radiation source similar to the sun was employed to measure the final steady-state temperature. Very close to the one actually observed after the satellite attained orbit. I made use of the large mechanical and diffusion pumps from that apparatus.

My undergraduate teaching focused on introductory general and junior-level physical chemistry courses. I fondly recall many students from that period, some returning to visit. My teaching was influenced by some of the best professors at the *University of Connecticut*, my alma mater.

My research program was reasonably successful; I was promoted to *Associate Professor* in 1978 along with Professor Martha Cotter in *Rutgers College*. One PhD graduate student worked with me on an initial project; he proved to be indispensable. The student, Joseph BelBruno, obtained his PhD in 1980 then spent a year at *Princeton* with a postdoctoral engineering fellowship. He was hired as an *Assistant Professor* in *Chemistry* at *Dartmouth College*, and is still active as a *Full Professor* there. Joe changed his last name from Bel Bruno to BelBruno early on because search engines often came up with Bruno for his surname.

During 1981-82, President Bloustein instituted a restructuring of undergraduate liberal arts faculty under the banner of the *Faculty of Arts and Sciences* (FAS). The administrative structure of individual undergraduate colleges was maintained. The colleges maintained their students, but had no faculty. FAS had faculty, but no students. A new category of faculty *Fellows* was linked to the colleges. Chemistry became one department; I moved my laboratory to its final location, the *Busch Campus*, in 1984.

What were your major accomplishments and sources of satisfaction while you were at Rutgers?

Setting up a research program in experimental chemical physics at *Douglass College* and mentoring undergraduate and graduate students.

I participated as a *Mentor* in the *Rutgers College Honors Program* in the fall of 2004, which morphed into an *SAS* program (School of Arts and Sciences) in 2007. The *SAS Honors Faculty Mentor Program* provides undergraduates with access to the university's best faculty on a one-to-one basis. Many students develop close relationships with their faculty mentors over the first and second years; mentors often invite students to meet for lunch, to participate in departmental seminars and lectures, or even to collaborate with them or with

colleagues on research projects. From 2004 until my retirement on January 1, 2016. I mentored roughly 30 students, some still remain in contact. One highlight was a fall trip to see the *Nutcracker* in Lincoln Center. I was allowed to invite my great niece who was an undergraduate at *Pratt University* at the time.

Vice Chair of the Undergraduate Program in Chemistry from 2000 until 2009. My main joy was interacting with and helping undergraduates pursue their programs. I got to know many students, not just chemistry majors. Also, I served on the *FAS/SAS Undergraduate Curriculum Committee*. I got to meet and appreciate colleagues in all subject areas.

I was president of the *Douglass College Section of Phi Beta Kappa* from 2002 until its demise in 2007, presiding at several initiation ceremonies. *Rutgers College* and *Douglass* alternated hosting the ceremony at that time. The *Douglass Section* is now dormant, though it still exists on paper. I still exist as President on paper. At least the national *PBK* believes so.

Did you do any writing or research or community service work?

I studied energy-transfer collisions of metastable (electronically excited) neon, argon, krypton, and xenon atoms with simple target species in a molecular beam apparatus. The total quenching cross sections (probabilities) were measured by suitable monitor reactions that isolate individual electronic states of the metastable atoms, a new technique pioneered in my laboratory. The energy-dependent quenching cross section provides insight into the nature of the long-range forces between excited atoms and ground-state species. For reactions that produce luminescent products, I obtained the energy-dependent product formation cross sections as well. Comparison of the formation cross section with the total quenching value reveals details of the strength of the fundamental interaction that gives rise to a specific energy transfer channel. The vibrational and rotational distribution of a fluorescing molecular fragment was obtained by higher resolution spectral measurements. Geometric features of the excited potential energy surface on which the reaction occurs are inferred from the observed internal energy distribution. This work was disseminated in major journals, both from the *American Chemical Society* and the *American Physical Society*.

I am most proud of my service as a school board member in the *City of New Brunswick* (2002-2015), chairing its *Curriculum Committee* for many years. I had sequential two-year terms as *Vice President* and *President*, in that role presiding at the dedication of the new *New Brunswick High School* in December 2009.

Participating in the *Rutgers Future Scholars Welcome Session* in the *Allison Road Classroom Building* on June of 2008. This was a bold *Rutgers* initiative to expand the

number of talented students coming to *Rutgers* from underrepresented communities; 50 eighth grade students from the *New Brunswick* public school system participated. The program has been extremely successful since its inception.

I had a strong interest in helping transition students with diverse backgrounds into college, working with the *Rutgers Office for Diversity and Academic Success in the Sciences* to provide high school students in *Abbott Districts* the opportunity to improve their chances for success in college general chemistry courses.

I was invited to review several undergraduate and graduate level textbooks for the *Journal of Chemical Education*.

With Joe Potenza, I coauthored a *Study Guide* for a major undergraduate honors textbook through six editions (1999-2013). I was the sole author for the seventh (final?) edition in 2016.

Joe and I participated in two summer workshops for middle school and elementary school teachers. In the summer of 2008, twenty-three elementary school teachers registered for a two-week *Science and Mathematics Workshop*. Joe and I were the main instructors along with Dr. Deborah Cook from the *New Jersey Statewide Systemic Initiative*. An important part of this professional development program for grades 3-5 was to address the *NJ State Core Curriculum Standard* for Chemistry: "Exploring the nature of matter and energy is essential to an understanding of the physical universe." Through a series of inquiry-based activities and experiments, the teachers learned how to guide students from experiences with the states and properties of matter to the development of models of atoms including the exploration of some fundamental principles of chemistry. The workshop not only deepened the participant's content knowledge of chemistry, but also provided participants with instructional strategies and pedagogical methods to engage all students, including special needs populations, in science learning.

Did you receive any award / honors before or after retirement?

In 1982-83, I was appointed to a *Visiting Associate Professor* position at the *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*, spending the academic year working in both teaching and research areas under the sponsorship of Prof. James L. Kinsey, the department chair. Observing differences in teaching for which *Teaching Assistants* train for one year before becoming *Research Assistants*. At *Rutgers* in chemistry, TAs often labor three or more years before obtaining grant supported positions.

In 2006, I received the very last *FAS* certificate award in recognition of *Distinguished Contributions to Undergraduate Education* sharing the *Full Professor* award with Len

Hamilton from *Psychology*. Dean Holly Smith presided, her last year in that role.

In 2010, I received a *Douglass Medal* from the *Associate Alumnae of Douglass College* and spoke at their reunion event in June. The *Douglass Medal* pays tribute to those individuals who have given of themselves in varied ways over the years to benefit *Douglass College* and its community. Part of a less happy service was as a member of a *Degree Revocation Hearing Panel* in 2005. Dean Beth Howard presented evidence of transcript tampering, and, as a result, the student had her degree revoked.

What did you do before coming to Rutgers?

I attended the *University of Connecticut* in *Storrs* for my undergraduate studies. Early on, I was torn between *physics* and *chemistry*, eventually deciding on *chemistry*. My undergraduate research was in the area of *organic chemistry*, but my interests and abilities lay in the *physical* area. I pursued PhD work at *Yale University* in 1967. My initial research focused on reactions studied by nuclear and radiochemistry. I spent a year at the *University of Colorado* with my adviser, who was on leave of absence. He maintained his *Yale* connection eventually returning in 1969. My thesis topic was on the reactions of protons (deuterons) with molecular hydrogen and isotopic variations leading to a 1971 degree. My research adviser, Professor Richard Wolfgang, died in June of 1971 in a boating accident. Much later I learned the cause was actually suicide. Only close members of his family knew the truth early on, I learned much later. Another faculty member, Richard Cross, became my mentor. Fortunately, my research work was almost complete when my adviser passed and I already had a postdoctoral position in the works.

Next, I spent a year and a half at *Harvard* in a postdoctoral position. The research area focused on reactions between halogen atoms and molecules (chlorine, bromine, and iodine) resulting in several publications with my advisor, Professor Dudley Herschbach. I also spent two summers working with Dudley at *Harvard*, in 1974 and 1975. In 1986, he received a *Nobel Prize* in *Chemistry* along with *Yuan T. Lee* at the *University of California at Berkeley* and *John C. Polanyi* at the *University of Toronto*. They were recognized for contributions concerning the dynamics of elementary chemical processes.

Going back to earlier days, had you always planned on having an academic career — doing what you did?

Serendipity seems to rule my life. I attended grad school at *Yale* for two reasons, intense interest in academic

work and complete lack of enthusiasm for the Vietnam War. Student draft deferments were terminated in my second year. Fortunately, my advisor wrote a convincing letter to my draft board and I obtained an occupational deferment. I gave up my deferment to take my chances in the lottery system. The only lottery I ever won. I completed my PhD thesis in late 1971 and postdoctoral work in 1973. I was fascinated by academia, balancing teaching and research, which are constantly stimulating.

If you were to do it over again, would you pursue the same career or would you choose another one?

Hard to know, life is uncertain. My other possible occupation opportunity was inheriting a small grocery store (mom and pop). Also, industry didn't appeal to me. Yes, I would do it again.

What did you do after you retired?

Life of quiet contemplation. Reading, attending lectures, continuing to meet with colleagues in the chemistry department. Now participating in the *AAUP Retiree Assembly*. Joe Potenza invited me to join, which I did in October 2016. This stimulating group shows there is life in retirement. Also, meeting others in a range of disciplines.

Any personal information you'd care to share:

Interests include Jazz & Classical Music, Art, Literature, Nature, Bird Watching, and Cinema. Finally, I am strongly supported and encouraged in all my educational efforts by my wife of 40 years, who shares a love of learning and deep commitment to community activities.

Below is a list of organizations and their contact information including web sites you may find useful:

AAUP Emeriti Assembly

11 Stone Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000
Fax: 732-964-1032
E-mail: aaup@rutgersaaup.org
<http://www.rutgersaaup.org/Emeriti-Assembly>

RWJMS Retired Faculty Association

<http://rwjms.rutgers.edu/faculty/index.html#>

Retired Faculty & Staff Association

<http://retirement.rutgers.edu/>

Rutgers Retiree Benefits

<http://retirement.rutgers.edu/retiree-benefits/>

**Rutgers Council of AAUP Chapters-AFT
11 Stone Street**

New Brunswick, NJ 08901-1113
Phone: 732-964-1000
Fax: 732-964-1032
E-mail: aaup@rutgersaaup.org
www.rutgersaaup.org

**American Association of University
Professors**

1133 Nineteenth Street, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202-737-5900
Fax: 202-737-5526
E-mail: aaup@aaup.org
www.aaup.org

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO

555 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-879-4400
www.aft.org

AFT's Web Page for Retirees:

<http://www.aft.org/retirement>

AARP

601 E Street NW
Washington, DC 20049
Phone: 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277)
www.aarp.org

AARP NJ

NEW!! As of March 5, 2018, AARP NJ is likely to have finished up the move to their new office space, which is:

303 George Street
Suite 505
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

Old address:
Forrestal Village
101 Rockingham Row
Princeton, NJ 08540

Phone: 1-866-542-8165 (toll-free)
Fax: 609-987-4634
E-mail: njaarp@aarp.org
Web site: <http://www.aarp.org/states/nj/>

**NJ Department of Treasury
Division of Pension & Benefits**

Links for retirees
<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/pensions/retiree-home.shtml>