

## Honorary Doctorate for Gerhard Wegner

Gerhard Wegner (Emeritus Professor, Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research, Mainz, Germany) was awarded an honorary doctorate by the ETH Zürich (Switzerland) in November 2011 for his “brilliant and creative contributions to polymer science”. Wegner obtained his PhD from the University of Mainz (Germany) in 1965 for work supervised by W. Kern and R. C. Schulz. He carried out postdoctoral work with H. G. Cassidy at Yale University (USA) from 1966–1968, and subsequently worked with E. W. Fischer at the Institute for Physical Chemistry, University of Mainz, where he completed his Habilitation in 1970. From 1974 to 1984, Wegner held the Chair in Macromolecular Chemistry at the University of Freiburg (Germany), and he joined the Max Planck Society in 1983 as one of the Founding Directors of the Max Planck Institute for Polymer Research. He received the Federal Cross of Merit (Bundesverdienstkreuz) in 2003. Wegner is currently a member of the Editorial Board of *Chemistry—A European Journal* and served on the Editorial Board of *Angewandte Chemie* from 1985 to 1994. He has reported on the EPR characterization of thermoresponsive dendronized polymers in *Angewandte Chemie*<sup>[1a]</sup> and on the conductivity of polymer-based core-shell nanoparticles in *ChemPhysChem*.<sup>[1b]</sup>

## Credit Suisse Award for Donald Hilvert

Every year the Association of Students at the ETH Zürich awards “Golden Owls” to the best teachers in each subject for the quality of their teaching and student support. Each recipient is automatically nominated for the Credit Suisse Award for Best Teaching, which was established in 2006 to allow further and higher education institutions in Switzerland to honor their best teachers. Donald Hilvert (ETH Zürich) was awarded both a “Golden Owl” and the Credit Suisse Award in November 2011. Hilvert studied at Brown University (USA) and received his PhD from Columbia University, New York (USA) in 1983. He carried out postdoctoral work at Rockefeller University and subsequently held faculty positions at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, California (USA) as assistant professor (1986), associate professor (1989), and full professor (1994). He was appointed Professor of Chemistry at the ETH in 1997. Hilvert is Co-Chair of the Editorial Advisory Board of *ChemBioChem* and on the International Advisory Board of *ChemCatChem*. His research interests are in chemical biology, in particular semisynthetic enzymes, directed evolution, and catalytic antibodies. Hilvert’s recent publications in *Angewandte*

*Chemie* include reports on photocontrolling PNA/DNA hybridization by light<sup>[2a]</sup> and the repair of psoralen-derived photolesions.<sup>[2b]</sup>

## Kapitza Gold Medal and Jayne Prize Lectureship for Sir John Meurig Thomas

Sir John Meurig Thomas (Honorary Professor, Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy, Cambridge, UK) was awarded the Kapitza Gold Medal by the Russian Academy of Natural Sciences, and the Jayne Prize Lectureship of the American Philosophical Society in 2011. For the latter prize, he will deliver a lecture entitled “Sir Humphry Davy: Natural Philosopher, Discoverer, Inventor, Poet and Man of Action” in Philadelphia in April 2012. Thomas studied at the University of Wales, Swansea (UK), and completed his PhD at Queen Mary College, University of London (UK) in 1958 under the supervision of K. Sykes. In 1958, he joined the University of Wales, Bangor, and in 1969, he was appointed Professor of Chemistry at University College, Aberystwyth, Wales. In 1978, he moved to the University of Cambridge as Head of the Department of Physical Chemistry, and in 1986, he became Director of the Royal Institution of Great Britain, London. From 1993 to 2002, he was Master (Head) of Peterhouse College, Cambridge. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1977, and was knighted in 1991. Thomas’ research interests include the chemical applications of electron microscopy in materials chemistry and heterogeneous catalysis, and the development of “green” catalysts. He has written about the use of electron microscopy in the investigation of solid catalysts in *ChemCatChem*<sup>[3a]</sup> and *Angewandte Chemie*,<sup>[3b]</sup> and the second edition of his book on heterogeneous catalysis<sup>[3c]</sup> is in the course of completion. (Photograph by J. Holman.)

- [1] a) M. J. N. Junk, W. Li, A. D. Schlüter, G. Wegner, H. W. Spiess, A. Zhang, D. Hinderberger, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 5818; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 5683; b) K. Mpoukouvalas, J. Wang, G. Wegner, *ChemPhysChem* **2010**, *11*, 139.
- [2] a) T. Stafforst, D. Hilvert, *Angew. Chem.* **2010**, *122*, 10195; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2010**, *49*, 9998; b) T. Stafforst, D. Hilvert, *Angew. Chem.* **2011**, *123*, 9655; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2011**, *50*, 9483.
- [3] a) J. M. Thomas, P. A. Midgley, *ChemCatChem* **2010**, *2*, 783; b) J. M. Thomas, J.-C. Hernandez-Garrido, *Angew. Chem.* **2009**, *121*, 3962; *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2009**, *48*, 3904; c) J. M. Thomas, W. J. Thomas, *Principles and Practice of Heterogeneous Catalysis*, Wiley-VCH, Weinheim, **1997**.

DOI: 10.1002/anie.201108688

## Awarded ...



G. Wegner



D. Hilvert



J. M. Thomas