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Comments on Inorganic Chemistry

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Inorganic chemistry has lost several of its giants since late in 2006: Robert W. Parry, F. Albert Cotton, Alan MacDiarmid, Fred Basolo. Biographies of each of these scientists will appear elsewhere covering their scientific contributions. I write here simply to note the exceptional impact all had on inorganic chemistry and chemistry in general. All except Alan G. MacDiarmid were Priestley medallists, but he was the only Nobel Laureate among the group.

Fred Basolo preceded me as Editor of *Comments on Inorganic Chemistry* and remained with the masthead of the journal, often making suggestions regarding potential authors. Fred always was first and foremost an educator. His autobiography *From Coello to Inorganic Chemistry A Lifetime of Reactions* (2002, Kluwer Academic/Plenum Publishers) is the first book in the Profiles in Inorganic Chemistry series that I edit. There is little doubt that *Comments* owes its present development as a journal to Fred. Where else can newer members of the inorganic chemistry profession describe their contributions as easily? A short review of Fred's exceptional contributions as written by Harry B. Gray and John Maygar appears in this issue.

Bob Parry was a great friend and mentor to me, a person perhaps more noted for his people skills than for his science. Bob was the first editor of *Inorganic Chemistry* and one of the early leaders in the Gordon Research Conferences. In fact, it has been said that Bob and Fred saved the GRC in its most difficult period. Bob brought Fred Basolo to some Gordon Research Conferences when Fred could no longer travel by himself. The picture below is from the Inorganic GRC in 2001. Bob wrote a review of Fred Basolo's autobiography for *Comments*, which appeared in Volume 23.

Al Cotton was a giant among giants, probably the most influential inorganic chemist in the past 50 years. I was privileged to study under Al at MIT and worked with him as a colleague and close friend at Texas



Figure 1. Robert W. Parry and Fred Basolo at the 2001 Gordon Research Conference on Inorganic Chemistry.

A&M for the past 25 years. He was truly brilliant and the contributions he has made to science and science education were exceptional. Hopefully his autobiography, which was virtually complete when he died, will be published in the near future.

Alan MacDiarmid was most personable and a very observant scientist, a major contributor to inorganic and solid state chemistry. The Nobel committee recognized him for his work on superconductivity involving non-metallic substances, paving the way for the high temperature superconductors known today. Incidentally, he, like each of the others, edited a volume of *Inorganic Syntheses*, the foremost resource for preparative inorganic chemistry in use today.

We will miss these great inorganic chemists.

John P. Fackler, Jr.
Editor in Chief