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An Appreciation

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Roughly a year ago, I (MTR) realized that Professor Michael T. Bowers would be turning 70 on June 6, 2009 and wanted to honor him and recognize his scientific contributions and service in support of the ion chemistry and mass spectrometry communities. Thus I proposed organizing this special issue of the *International Journal of Mass Spectrometry* in his honor. My initial suggestion was met with considerable resistance because, as many of you may remember, Helmut Schwarz had organized a special issue of *IJMS* in Mike's honor on the occasion of his 60th birthday in 1999. This special issue was supported by many friends, colleagues, and collaborators and resulted in volumes 185/186/187, which included 84 manuscripts dedicated to Mike. I was told that it would be hard to top that effort, that no one had previously been honored in *IJMS* with a second special issue, and that doing so would possibly set an unfortunate precedent. Undaunted by these initial concerns, I argued that my intent was to organize a more modest issue with contributions from Mike's closest friends, colleagues, and collaborators, and furthermore that almost no one has made the substantial contributions to *IJMS* that Mike has, and that few scientists are as active at this point in their careers as Mike is. With this in mind, I was given the go ahead to proceed with a modest special issue if I could obtain Mike's permission (which many anticipated would be difficult to acquire). Indeed, I anticipated further resistance from Mike himself, but armed with the array of persuasive arguments noted above and the added motivation of using the presentation of this special issue as a reason to host a symposium and birthday celebration with friends, colleagues, and collaborators (at the University of California, Santa Barbara, June 18–20, 2009), he relented. Once that was settled, I asked Peter Armentrout to join me as guest editor for this very special, special issue of *IJMS*, and he enthusiastically agreed. It gives me the utmost pleasure to have brought this honor to Mike, one that he so richly deserves.

I (MTR) first met Mike at the 1993 Lake Arrowhead Conference on Ion Chemistry and Mass Spectrometry when I was a postdoctoral fellow in Jack Beauchamp's group at Caltech. Mike showed genuine interest in my work and asked several questions after my oral presentation. Shortly thereafter I began directly receiving manuscripts to review from Mike for the *International Journal of Mass Spectrometry and Ion Processes* and the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*. These first few interactions with Mike were just the beginning of the scientific mentoring and support of my career that he would and continues to provide. Since then I have had the pleasure of interacting with Mike both scientifically and personally at many scientific meetings. It has been a pleasure organizing the

Lake Arrowhead Conference on Ion Chemistry and Mass Spectrometry with Mike annually since 1998. As I found at the first meeting I attended, Mike continues to show genuine interest in the science presented and asks thought provoking questions of virtually every speaker. I have also enjoyed working on special issues of *IJMS* and serving on the *IJMS* editorial board in association with Mike. The shared sessions at meetings, conversations at poster sessions and dinners, celebrations of awards, shopping in Portugal, boat rides in England, walking the Charles Bridge in Prague, the winery tour in Spain, and numerous other interactions I've shared with Mike over the years have been a pleasure.

I (PBA) have similar recollections of Mike over the years. My earliest vivid memory and one that I cherish harkens back to one of my first years as an assistant professor. I remember Mike taking me aside at a meeting at the University of Colorado. Sitting in the sunshine outside the student union, Mike asked me what my research plans were and what I hoped to achieve during my academic career. We must have met a couple of years earlier at one of the ion chemistry meetings that have evolved into the Lake Arrowhead Conference on Ion Chemistry and Mass Spectrometry held each January, but in this episode, Mike treated me as a colleague and showed genuine interest in my plans and aspirations. Not too long thereafter, I was surprised and delighted when Mike sent me a preprint of his first organometallic paper and asked for my opinion. I have had the pleasure of collaborating with Mike on several papers and have been fortunate to continue to interact both scientifically and collegially with Mike at many meetings since. Whether it was sight seeing in the south of France, a walk along the French Quarter, a late night in Germany, a bull ring in Spain, or a run just about anywhere, it's been a pleasure to be your colleague, your collaborator, and best of all, your friend.

Mike has made such significant contributions to science, both fundamental and applied, as well as providing service to the scientific community in the form of his editorships. His extensive collaborations and mentoring of students (both his own and others) have allowed many of us to appreciate his keen scientific acumen. This special issue is in appreciation for all you have done. On behalf of the scientific community and the publisher, we wish you a sincere and heart felt thanks Mike for all you have done, and will continue to do in the coming years, for the mass spectrometry and ion chemistry communities.

Happy 70th Birthday!