

Announcing the Creation of the Fund for the Dr. Ron Magolda Chemistry Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program at Villanova University

Dr. Ronald Magolda, Vice President for Medicinal Chemistry at Wyeth Research, Villanova alumnus, College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Medallion recipient, and 2007 Silvestri Lecturer, passed away tragically on June 1, 2008, as a result of an unfortunate bike accident at the tender age of 54. Ron's dedication to excellence in drug discovery and leadership in medicinal chemistry inspired many scientists throughout the community from both academia and industry.



As a tribute to Ron's legacy in Drug Discovery and Medicinal Chemistry, a committee was formed and is soliciting funds to establish and support an annual Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in Ron's name at Villanova University. The committee is chaired by Dr. Tarek Mansour of Wyeth Research and is composed of Ron's friends and colleagues: Professor K.C. Nicolaou (The Scripps Research Institute), Professor Magid Abou-Gharbia (Temple University), Drs. Terence Kelly (Boehringer-Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals) and Robert Zipkin (Enzo Life Sciences International). Each member of the committee worked with Ron in various capacities as research supervisor, manager, colleague, laboratory mate and all attest to Ron's unrelenting passion and drive for excellence in Chemistry.

For many years now, the Department of Chemistry at Villanova University has supported a substantial number of students with research fellowships funded through the generous contributions from local industries and faculty research grants. The Department's philosophy is that research is vital to student development and that it may be the single most important activity undergraduates undertake. Because of this commitment, faculty mentors constantly work to provide superior research experiences for their students. Undergraduate researchers not only benefit from hands-on involvement but they also become part of the process and culture of research. Devising experiments and solving problems with lab members and faculty advisors prepare students by placing them in a real world setting. Learning to work creatively and independently as an undergraduate gives students a distinct advantage when entering the workforce or applying to graduate or professional school. Ron attended Villanova as an undergraduate and it is fitting that this fellowship program be established here in his memory.

Although the specifics of the program are still being established, it is proposed that two undergraduate research students would be supported annually with the expectation that more could be supported in the future as the fund grows. The Department Chair will work to secure funds for room and board for students supported from this program. ***Dr. Ron Magolda Undergraduate Research Fellows*** would be selected from the pool of applicants the Department receives each spring and an acknowledgement to the program would appear on all work disseminated.

Your support and contributions to the ***Dr. Ron Magolda Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program in Chemistry*** are much appreciated not only by Villanova University and the committee members, but also by the large community of Medicinal Chemists who have been touched by Ron's mentorship. Donations from individuals and corporations are welcome. We will continue to seek and secure funds for this endowment to ensure the program is both a lasting memorial to Ron and a resource for undergraduate research.

Please consider supporting this very important program in Ron's memory. Donations can be made in several ways:

- via credit card by visiting <http://www.villanova.edu/advance/develop/makeagift.htm>
- by phone at 1-800-486-5244
- or by a check sent to:

The Dr. Ron Magolda Fund c/o Claire Bula, Villanova University, 800 Lancaster Avenue, Villanova, PA 19085

* Please note in the memo line of the check, "Ron Magolda Fund"