

Nobel-winner Richard Smalley dies

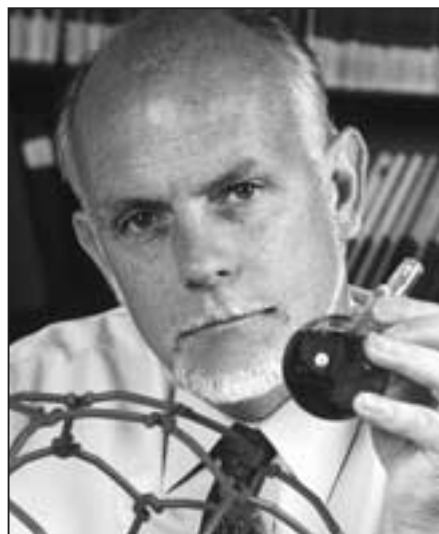
Hope alumnus Dr. Richard Smalley '65, who won the Nobel Prize nine years ago for his groundbreaking research, has died.

Dr. Smalley died on Friday, Oct. 28, 2005, after a long battle with cancer. He was 62.

In 1996, he and two other researchers won the Nobel Chemistry Prize for discovering "buckyballs"—buckminsterfullerenes, or carbon 60, the third molecular form of carbon.

He was a member of the faculty at Rice University in Houston, Texas, where he was the University Professor, the Gene and Norman Hackerman Professor of Chemistry, and a professor of physics. He was also director of the Carbon Nanotechnology Laboratory at Rice, and chairman of Carbon Nanotechnologies Inc.

One of the best-known and most respected scientists in nanotechnology, he was a leading proponent of the creation of the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), his role in the effort including testifying on Capitol Hill. Launched by the U.S. in 2000, NNI is a sweeping federal research-and-development program that coordinates the nanotech efforts of nearly two dozen federal agencies, including the



Dr. Richard Smalley '65

National Science Foundation, the Department of Defense and NASA.

He had through the years received several awards and prizes for his research in addition to the Nobel Prize. Among other honors, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1990 and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1991, and was elected an AAAS Fellow in 2003. He had been awarded eight honorary degrees.

Dr. Smalley had attended Hope for two years, from 1961 to 1963, subsequently transferring to the University of Michigan, where he completed his Bachelor of

Science degree in chemistry.

In a feature published in *news from Hope College* in recognition of his Nobel Prize, he singled out legendary chemistry faculty members Dr. J. Harvey Kleinheksel '22 and Dr. Gerrit Van Zyl '18 for their importance in his education. In particular he recalled Dr. Kleinheksel, who taught his introductory chemistry course, "as being the best professor that I ever had in my life."

Hope presented Dr. Smalley with a Distinguished Alumni Award during Alumni Day on Saturday, May 7, 2005. He was honored in absentia because his illness prevented him from attending, but prepared remarks that were read at the awards banquet.

"My short two years at Hope starting as a freshman in 1961 were immensely important to me," he wrote. "I went to chapel, studied religion, and attended church more than I had ever done before, and was with people who took to these issues seriously. I valued that greatly back then. Recently I have gone back to church regularly with a new focus to understand as best I can what it is that makes Christianity so vital and powerful in the lives of billions of people today, even though almost 2,000 years have passed since the death and resurrection of Christ."

"Although I suspect I will never fully understand, I now think the answer is very simple: it's true," he continued.

"God did create the universe about 13.7 billion years ago, and of necessity involved Himself with His creation ever since. The purpose of this universe is something that only God knows for sure, but it is increasingly clear to modern science that the universe was exquisitely fine-tuned to enable human life. We are somehow critically involved in His purpose. Our job is to sense that purpose as best we can, love one another, and help Him get that job done."

Dr. Smalley completed his B.S. at the University of Michigan in 1965. After working for several years as a research chemist for Shell Chemical Company, he attended Princeton University, where he completed a Master of Arts degree in 1971 and a doctorate in 1973.

He joined the Rice faculty in 1976 as a professor of chemistry, and had been a member of the physics department since 1990. He was named to his endowed chair in 1982.

In April of 2002, Dr. Smalley presented the college's annual James and Jeanette Neckers Lectureship in Chemistry. In 1985 he had also given a guest lecture at Hope concerning the ground-breaking research that ultimately earned the Nobel Prize.

Survivors include his wife, Deborah Smalley; two sons, Chad and Preston; a brother, Clayton; two sisters, Linda and Mary Jill; stepdaughters Eva and Allison; and a granddaughter, Bridget. ✍

at South High School in Grand Rapids, and at Hope College, where she was assistant professor of voice and music theory from 1947 to 1949. She retired in 1971 following seven years in the English department at Grand Rapids Junior College.

She was a life member of Central Reformed Church, where she was a choir member, soloist and director of the hand bell choir, and served as president of the Women's Guild. She was a life member of Sigma Alpha Iota, a national music fraternity, Delta Kappa Gamma, a national honor sorority for women teachers, and Quill and Scroll, an international honorary society for high school journalists. She served as president of the Grand Rapids Zorta Club and of Church Women United of Grand Rapids, where she was recognized as Valiant Woman in 1998.

She was preceded in death by her brothers, Harry Paalman and Russell Paalman '34; her sister, Pearl Paalman '24 Veldman; and two nephews, Donald Veldman '53 and Jon Mark Schoon '63.

Survivors include her sister-in-law, Kathryn Paalman; many nieces and nephews, including MaryKay Paalman '66 Schoon, Gretchen Paalman '68 Latowsky, Marcia Veldman '56 (Norman '53) Thompson, and Janet Soeter '56 Veldman; and many grand and great-grand nieces and nephews.

Word has been received of the death of **D. Robert Persse '45** of Gloversville, N.Y., who died on Monday, Sept. 12, 2005. More information will appear in the next issue.

Lloyd E. Peterman '53 of West Bloomfield, Mich., died on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2005. He was 80.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving as a paratrooper with the 11th Airborne in the Philippines during World War II and after the war as part of the occupation force in Japan.

A long-time educator in Michigan, he first served as a teacher in Imlay City, and later was

a high school principal in the Hoover School District near Flint, in Romulus, and for the last 20 years of his career, in Oak Park.

He was active in the churches he attended, usually as a Sunday school teacher and/or elder. Most recently he attended Orchard Lake Community Church, Presbyterian in Orchard Lake, Mich.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Dorothy Rodenburg, a brother, Glen O. Peterman, and a nephew, Daniel L. Stoepker '70.

Survivors include his wife of 54 years, Agnes Ferwerda Peterman; his children, Douglas J. '74 (Shahla) Peterman of Maryland Heights, Mo., Roger L. (Mary) Peterman of Fort Thomas, Ky., Thomas A. Peterman (Jeanne Bertolli) of Atlanta, Ga., Sue E. Peterman of West Bloomfield, and Mary A. (Tony) Vrbensky of West Bloomfield; 10 grandchildren; a brother, Clinton Peterman of Minneapolis, Minn.; and numerous in-laws, nieces and nephews, including Wallace Stoepker '43, David Stoepker '69, Ruth Stoepker '78 and Glen L. Peterman '78.

Theresa Iwema Hertel '68 Prins of Holland, Mich., died on Sunday, Oct. 16, 2005. She was 79.

She was a member of Hope Reformed Church and the Hope Academy of Senior Professionals (HASP).

Her daughter-in-law, Lori Hertel, is director of the biology laboratories at Hope.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Prins, and a son, John Hertel.

Survivors include her children, Nancy Hertel of Chicago, Ill., Maryanne Hertel '76 and Kevin Counihan of Wellesley Hills, Mass., and Robert and Lori Hertel of Fennville, Mich.; three grandchildren, including Jonathan Hertel '09; sister, Grace Dinucci of Cicero, Ill.; brother, Richard and Jane Iwema of Grand Rapids, Mich.; in-laws, Peg and John DeHaan of Holland; and nieces and nephews.

Sharon Cook '62 Robbins of Greenville,

Del., died on Friday, May 14, 2004.

She taught elementary school for many years, was a tax consultant for almost 20 years, and managed the insurance affairs of her brothers' dental practices during her last eight years. She was also an associate at a craft and fabric store throughout her career. Her hobbies and interests included sewing, traveling, church, sea-shore activities, reading, crafts, decorating, gardening and her pets.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Gordon S. '37 and Kathryn "Kaye" Rottschafer '35 Cook, and her husband, Fred.

She is survived by her daughter, Heather Robbins Boatwright of Chester County, Pa.; two brothers, G. Leigh Cook and Jeffrey L. Cook '72, both of the Wilmington, Del., area; and four nieces.

Paula Twigg '52 Shramek of Mill Creek, Wash., died on Thursday, Oct. 27, 2005. She was 74.

Following their marriage, she and her husband, James F. Shramek Jr. '49, moved to Chicago, Ill., and went into the insurance business.

She loved animals, gardening, floral arranging and interior decorating. She was a member of the PTA, Woman's Club and Gardening Club, and had also served as a Cub Scout den mother.

Survivors, in addition to her husband, include four children, Linda Brown, James Shramek, Paulette Schuster and Deborah Shramek; and three grandchildren.

Iva DeGraaf '48 Stassen of Holland, Mich., died on Monday, Oct. 24, 2005. She was 79.

She was a member of First Presbyterian Church and the Holland Garden Club.

Survivors include her husband of 58 years, August Stasen '50; children, Bonnie Zielke of Holland, Dawn (John) Jacobusse of Lake Placid, Fla., Sharon (Mike) Price of Holland, and Phillip Stassen of Holland; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; sisters, Carol (Howard)

Borgman of Marysville, Mich., and Pat Muilenburg of Sibley, Iowa; and nieces and nephews.

Marian Heerspink (Prep '36) Stielstra of Holland, Mich., formerly of Indian River, Mich., died on Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2005. She was 87.

She retired in Indian River as a speech therapist, and was a member of Harlem Reformed Church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Peter Stielstra '39, in 1992, and by a daughter, Patricia, in 1994.

Survivors include her children, Michael (Phyllis) Stielstra of Ludington, Mich., Darcio (Marilyn) Stielstra of Kodiak, Alaska, Sally (Robert) Harwood of East Lansing, Mich., Charles Stielstra of Palmer, Alaska, and Scott (Lilian) Stielstra of San Francisco, Calif.; son-in-law, Roger McDonald of Richmond, Calif.; 12 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and in-laws, cousins, nephews and nieces.

Daniel Lee Stoepker '70 of Detroit, Mich., died on Friday, Aug. 5, 2005. He was 56.

Survivors include his children, Jennifer (Michael) Jura and Jeremy '98 (Tanveer Ahmed) Stoepker; two grandchildren; his parents, Wallace '43 and Dorothy Stoepker; brothers, David '69 (Carol) Stoepker and Timothy (Jane) Stoepker; sister, Ruth Stoepker '78; and several nieces and nephews.

Kenneth A. VanHemert '52 of Muskegon, Mich., died on Saturday, Oct. 8, 2005. He was 76.

He was a veteran who served as a captain in the U.S. Air Force.

He was a dentist who practiced first in Kalamazoo, Mich., and then in Muskegon following his military service.

He was a life-long member of Bethany Christian Reformed Church, where he served as a deacon, elder and choir member, and he was instrumental in starting the Christian Reformed World Relief Committee. He sang with the