

BARRY MORROW

David Michael Bishop
1936-2008



David Bishop was born in London in 1936. He was educated at various schools in the United Kingdom and graduated from Catherham School in Surrey. He obtained his BSc in 1957 from University College London and stayed there under the tutelage of David Craig to earn a PhD in Theoretical Chemistry in 1960.

Following his Ph.D. he travelled to Pittsburgh to take up a post-doctoral position with Robert Parr at the Carnegie Institute of Technology as it was then known. He stayed on for a year as Assistant Professor of Chemistry after Parr left for Johns Hopkins University. In 1963 he accepted an appointment as Assistant Professor with the Department of Chemistry at the University of Ottawa where he worked his way through the ranks to the position of Professor in 1972. He remained at the University until his retirement in 2000 whereupon he was appointed Professor Emeritus. In 1972 he obtained a DSc from the University of London.

As a research scientist he published over 230 refereed articles in the general literature and he served on the Editorial Board of several refereed Journals. He published one book, *Group Theory and Chemistry* (Clarendon Press, Oxford, 1973) which was subsequently republished as a paperback by Dover Publications (New York) in 1993. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1992 and he received the John C. Polanyi Lecture Award in 2003 for excellence in research in theoretical and physical chemistry. In 2003 he was honoured by the publication of a special issue of the Journal of Molecular Structure (THEOCHEM) [Volume 633 Issues 2-3] and in 2005 he was honoured at a special symposium to celebrate his scientific work in Loutraki, Greece.

David's research was in an arcane area of quantum chemistry related to precise calculations of the electric and magnetic properties of small molecules. He was particularly interested in the relationship between experiment and theory and some of his calculated results have been used to calibrate experimental apparatus. Many of his works have been used to practical effect related to the development of quantum devices. His research was very substantially supported by government granting agencies (NRC and NSERC) and he was always very well funded during his professional career, even after retirement.

As an educator he had a considerable impact on the University of Ottawa, one of his major achievements being the driving force leading to the construction of the University Centre in 1972. Those who remember him know that he was a very private individual, but above all, one whose discretion could always be counted on. To this end he served many Deans and Department Chairs as a consultant, preferring to work behind the scenes. He was a trusted confidant of many within the University community. Lastly, he donated liberally to the Department of Music at Ottawa.

I knew David well, and such was his privacy that I was one of the few who knew his home telephone number. We shared many meals, bottles of wine, and some travels together when our

MORROW: David Michael Bishop

scientific meanderings overlapped. His interests were wide-ranging, from literature, music, food, wine and the theatre, a true bon vivant. He was much in demand at dinner parties because of his wide range of knowledge of current and world affairs, and he was a facile conversationalist.

David died on December 17, 2008 from lung cancer, as he always suspected would be the case. He is survived by his spouse Hariyo.

*Written by Barry Morrow
Professor, Department of Chemistry
University of Ottawa*