

Bulletin for the History of Chemistry Outstanding Paper Award for 2013

Stephen J. Weininger, Worcester Polytechnic Institute



Steve is being recognized for a paper based on his Symposium at the 2012 ACS Meeting in Philadelphia “150 Years of the Morrill Act.” His own paper is titled “Chemistry for the “Industrial Classes:” Laboratory instruction, mass education, and women’s experiences in Mid-western Land-Grant Colleges, 1870-1914.” It appeared in the *Bulletin* as **38**, 97-108 (2013).

Stephen Weininger was educated at Brooklyn College (B.A. Chemistry, 1957) and the University of Pennsylvania (Ph.D. Chemistry, 1964). In 1965 he joined the Chemistry Department at the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and became Professor of Chemistry Emeritus in 2005. His interests in the history of chemistry developed strongly at WPI and he served as Chair of the HIST Division in 1999-2000. He has published extensively in the areas of the history of physical organic chemistry, thermodynamics and chemical representation. He has pursued his historical passions as a Fellow at the Dibner

Institute, and the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin. He has been associated with the MIT Program in Science, Technology and Science. His stature as a Chemical historian was recognized with an editorship of the *New Dictionary of Scientific Biography* (2008). He remains very active in this field with a chapter entitled “Reactivity and its Contexts” in the recent publication “*Objects of Chemical Inquiry*” by Klein and Reinhardt (2014). Another major commitment, relating Chemistry and the Humanities, led to Steve’s role as a cofounder of the Society for Literature and Science (SLS) in 1985. He served as President from 1987-89 and has given many talks and published several papers in this area. A good example is “Ideology and Thermodynamic Metaphors,” presented to the SLS in 2002. He is committed to the notion that Chemistry is vitally connected to the rest of culture.