

Kenneth R. Carter, 2007 Percy L. Julian Award Recipient



Kenneth R. Carter, Associate Professor of the Polymer Science and Engineering Department, University of Massachusetts Amherst, is the recipient of the 2007 National Organization for the Professional Advancement of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCCChE) Percy L. Julian Award.

Professor Carter is recognized for his contributions in pure and applied research in chemistry during his career at UMass Amherst and the IBM Almaden Research Center.

Dr. Carter joined the UMass faculty in 2004 after close to 20 years experience in polymer research including 13 years at IBM's Almaden Research Center in San Jose, CA. His research involves the synthesis and characterization of novel polymeric materials with specially designed properties. Carter's research has focused on the development of organic and hybrid materials for future use in advanced electronics and storage technologies. Dr. Carter has numerous publications and over 24 patents in these areas. The materials and processes invented have been integrated into manufacturing environments in conjunction with workers in IBM's development and manufacturing divisions. Since joining the faculty at UMass, Dr. Carter has been a co-leader in the establishment of the University of Massachusetts Nanoimprint Lithography Laboratory and is a Test Bed Project coordinator for the new NSF-funded Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center for Hierarchical Manufacturing at UMass. He is currently the Associate Director for Research of the UMass Materials Research Science & Engineering Center on Polymers (MRSEC). His teaching interests include graduate-level courses in polymer chemistry and advanced polymeric materials. His research group at UMass focuses on polymer dielectrics, organic electronic materials, and advanced nanopatterned materials design and synthesis.

Dr. Carter has served as Chair of the ACS Division of Polymer Chemistry (2000 - 2004). While in that position he had the opportunity to strengthen ties between the ACS and NOBCCChE including his assistance with organizing and instructing at the NOBCCChE Science Academy for Young Students program at Cal State - Hayward. He also serves on the editorial advisory board of the ACS journal Chemistry of Materials.

The Percy L. Julian Award is the most prestigious award presented by NOBCCChE and was established in 1975 in honor of Dr. Julian, an African-American who obtained his BS in Chemistry from Depaw University in 1920. After facing various discriminatory practices in the United States educational system in the 20's, Dr. Julian went on to receive a PhD. from the University of Vienna in 1931. Upon returning to the United States, he worked in academia, industry and founded his own research laboratory. Though he had over 100 patents and 200 scientific publications, his most notable contribution was in the synthesis of steroids from soy products; which led to the discovery of cortisone.

The award will be presented to Dr. Carter at the 2007 NOBCCChE National Conference in Orlando, Florida, April 4, 2007. Contact Marlon Walker (marlon.walker@nist.gov) for more information or see www.NOBCCChE.org.