

**The Harmon Lectureship in  
Chemistry at Western Michigan  
University**

The Harmon Lectureship series in Chemistry was established by the Department of Chemistry in honor of Robert E. Harmon, a longtime professor at Western Michigan University. The lectureship was created to provide opportunities for students, faculty, and the community to interact with outstanding researchers from all areas of chemistry. The Department of Chemistry is grateful for the ongoing support that this endowment offers which permits us to continue the tradition of visits by such outstanding scholars and teachers as Professor Gray.

**Harmon Distinguished Lecturers**

2007	Harry B. Gray
2005	Sultan Abu-Orabi
2003	Bruce Rowe

**CHEMISTRY**  
DEPARTMENT

Third Annual

**HARMON LECTURESHIP  
SERIES**

PRESENTS

Professor

**Harry B. Gray**

Arnold O. Beckman Professor  
of Chemistry

California Institute of Technology  
Pasadena, CA

**September 17 and 18, 2007**



## Lecture Topics

Monday, September 17, 2007

"The Currents of Life: Electron  
Flow through Proteins"

4:00 p.m., Room 1720

Chemistry Building - WMU

Tuesday, September 18, 2007

"Powering the Planet with Solar  
Energy"

5:00 p.m., Room 1720

Chemistry Building - WMU



**P**rofessor Harry Gray was born on November 14, 1935 in Woodburn Kentucky. He received his B.S. in Chemistry from Western Kentucky University in 1957. He began his work in inorganic chemistry at Northwestern University, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1960 working under Fred Basolo and Ralph G. Pearson. After that, he spent a year (1960-61) as a NSF Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Copenhagen, where he collaborated with Carl J. Ballhausen on studies of the electronic structures of metal complexes. After completing his NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Copenhagen, he went to New York to take up a faculty appointment at Columbia University. He

became an Assistant Professor from 1961 to 1963, Associate Professor from 1963 to 1965 and Professor from 1965 to 1966. In 1966, he moved to the California Institute of Technology, where he is the Arnold O. Beckman Professor of Chemistry and Founding Director of the Beckman Institute.

Gray's interdisciplinary research program addresses a wide range of fundamental problems in inorganic chemistry, biochemistry, and biophysics. Electron transfer (ET) chemistry is a unifying theme for much of this research. The awards he has received include the American Chemical Society Award in Pure Chemistry (1970), Election to membership in the National Academy of Sciences (1971), American Chemical Society Award in Inorganic Chemistry (1978), Distinguished Scientist Award, ACS Kalamazoo Section (1983), American Chemical Society Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Inorganic Chemistry (1984), National Medal of Science (1986), ACS Alfred Bader Award in Bioinorganic Chemistry (1990), Wolf Prize for Chemistry (2004).