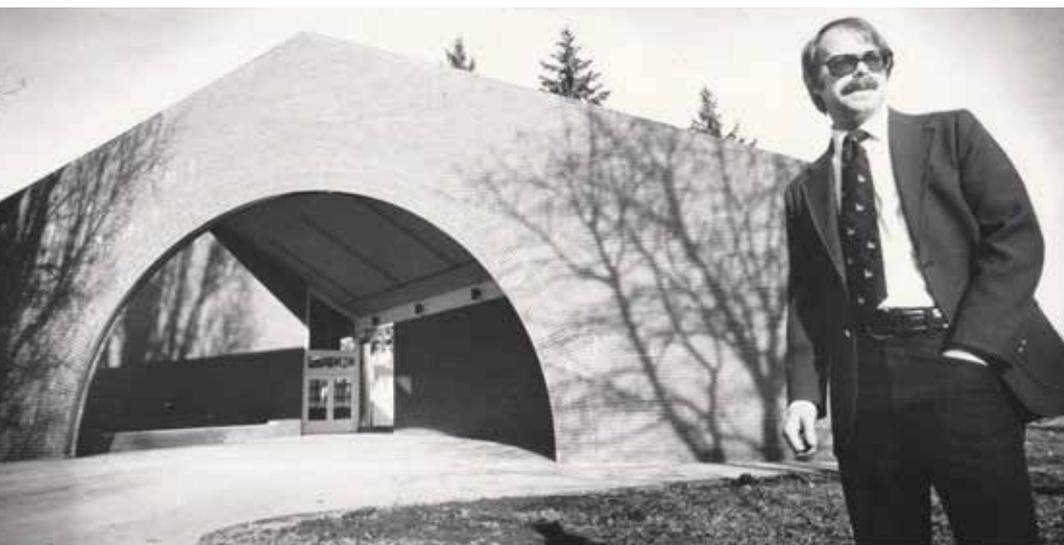# The Portland Section's Tribute to
Jim Currie

Jim Currie outside the new Chemistry Building at Pacific University.
The Oregonian, 1981.

Reed College Vollum Lounge
Thursday, January 10, 2019
6-9 PM

Jim Currie Tribute
ACS Portland Local Section Meeting
Thursday, January 10, 2019

Remembering Jim
Carl Wamser, MC

Kevin Johnson—slide show from Jim's retirement celebration
Currie Chemistry Endowed Fund for student travel

David Gallagher—Jim's work with CAChe

Martha Dibblee—Jim's work with ACS

Rick Whiteley—Jim at Pacific University

Adam C. Glass, Ph.D. (former Pacific University student of Jim's)
Department of Chemistry, Pacific Lutheran University

"*Benzofulvenes—A Love of Conjugation, Synthesis,
and Organic Chemistry*"

Abstract: Benzofulvenes and their derivatives are useful molecular entities, having applications as biologically active molecules, polymer precursors, and optoelectronic devices. Our lab has developed a simple and mild synthetic method for the formulation of a variety of highly functionalized and interesting fulvene-based motifs. We have also been engaged in probing the conjugation of larger systems through crystal structure analysis and UV-Vis to determine how electron communication may be manipulated through structural features. In addition, we have used computational analysis to probe how novel benzofulvenes may interact with thioredoxin reductase, a known protein in carcinogenesis.

James Orr Currie, Jr.
July 28, 1943 - Aug. 25, 2018

Obituary
© The Oregonian

Dr. James O. Currie, Jr. passed away Aug. 25, 2018 due to complications from Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis. Born July 28, 1943 in Canton, Ohio, to James and Harriet Currie, Jim grew up in North Canton and graduated from North Canton High School in 1961. He completed his Bachelor's Degree at The Ohio State University and earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of Washington in 1970. In Seattle, he met Victoria Nelson and they were married in 1969. After graduate school, he held several post-doctoral positions before being hired by Pacific University, in Forest Grove, Ore., in 1972.

Throughout his tenure, he was completely dedicated to Pacific's growth and student retention, especially in the sciences. He was also active in bringing Pacific into the Computer Age and was responsible for helping to write and maintain computer aided molecular modeling programs for the chemistry labs, through his consulting work with CAChe Scientific.
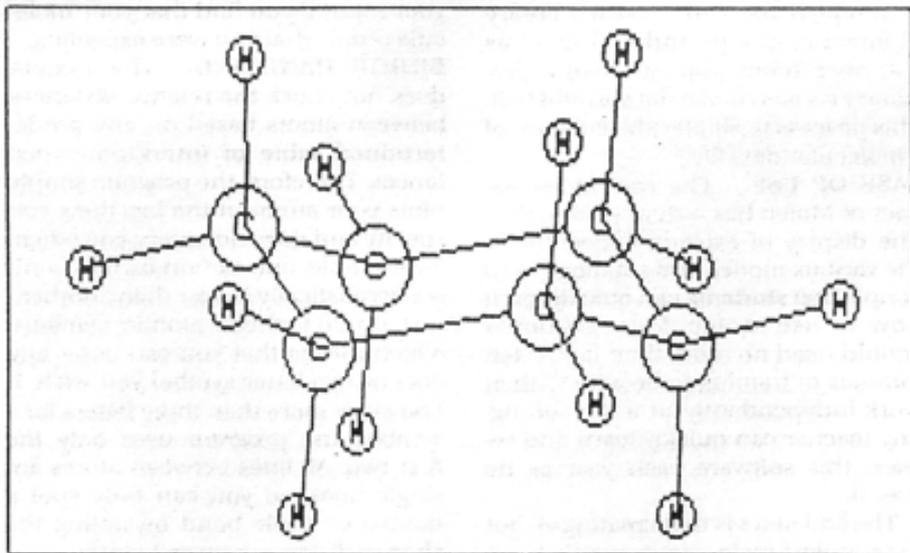
He was an active member in the Portland Section of the American Chemical Society and frequently attended both local and national meetings.

After retiring in 2008, he traveled extensively through Europe, Mexico and the U.S., and developed a love of wine and visiting wineries, near and far. He supported local theater generously, both as a patron and donor.

He was preceded in death by both his parents and is survived by his sister, Marcia (Dale); his wife, Vicki; sons, Nathan and Daniel (Meghan); and two grandchildren.

Jim is mourned by many whose lives he touched and those he taught and mentored. Remembrances in his name may be made to the Currie Chemistry Endowed Fund through Pacific University Development Office. At his request, no services are being held.

The First 3D Molecular Modeling Program for Personal Computers

Molec produces and displays three-dimensional molecular models.

When Jim was in graduate school at the University of Washington he met Scott Owen, who was involved in computers in education. Jim's interest in using computers in education translated into his learning Basic when he first joined the Pacific University faculty in 1972. He subsequently spent his first sabbatical in 1981 with Scott Owen at Atlanta University, where he and Scott wrote MOLEC, the first molecular modeling software written for a portable/personal computer. MOLEC did simple computer modeling on an Apple IIe computer. This was an important milestone, reviewed in the technology periodical InfoWorld (Vol 5, No 7) and later in Journal of Chemical Education (Vol 61, No 9, Sept 1984, pages A245-247). MOLEC (written in Pascal, which Jim learned in Atlanta, and some in machine language) was marketed and sold to the public, being the first software available for chemistry departments interested in molecular modeling.