

Lucy B. McCrone Honored by Georgia Microscopical Society

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President-elect, Georgia Microscopical Society*

The Georgia Microscopical Society is very proud to present the organization's 2009 Honorary Achievement Award to Lucy B. McCrone for her "Dedication to the Education and Advancement of Microscopy." Lucy accepted the award at the Inter/Micro 2009 Banquet in Chicago this past July.

Lucy received a B.A. in chemistry from Wellesley College in 1945. After graduating, she was hired as an analytical chemist by Arthur D. Little, Inc. in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she worked in the laboratory from 1945 to 1957.

Once, when Dr. Walter C. McCrone and I were traveling back to Chicago after teaching a course at Cornell University, he told me the story of how he met Lucy at her laboratory during a consulting visit. He said that he was so awed by her that on the train home that evening he wrote her a letter proposing marriage. He later found out that when Lucy read the letter, she thought he was crazy and threw it away. But the happy ending, as we now know, was their marriage in 1957, thanks to their love for each other and their common love for microscopy. After their wedding, she moved to Chicago where Lucy worked as a chemical microscopist at Walter C. McCrone Associates. In 1984, she transferred to the McCrone Research Institute (McRI), where she still works today.

What some people may not know about Lucy is that she is quite an accomplished microscopist. Lucy conducted some of the groundbreaking work that examined asbestos in Vanderbilt talc and vermiculite ore samples. She co-authored "Polarized Light Microscopy" (McRI publications), which is considered the



Thom Hopen (right) hands Lucy B. McCrone the Georgia Microscopical Society's honorary achievement award at the Inter/Micro 2009 Banquet.

"PLM Bible" and has been used as the main instruction manual to teach hundreds, if not thousands, of students how to understand, properly apply and appreciate the power of PLM. She also contributed to sections of "The Particle Atlas" (McRI publications), which is an invaluable reference for any PLM analyst.

I personally know from my brief employment at McRI that Dr. McCrone relied on her daily to examine samples and review technical information in publica-

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tion manuscripts. He always appreciated her suggested changes.

Lucy is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Chemical Society, American Crystallographic Association, Royal Microscopical Society, life member and past president of the State Microscopical Society of Illinois, and now, life member of the Georgia Microscopical Society.

She is also a charter member of McRI and has served as director, secretary and treasurer on the board of directors since co-founding McRI with Dr. McCrone in 1960. Today, it is the largest organization in the world solely dedicated to the teaching of microscopy. That is why the GMS is so proud to present this award to Lucy McCrone.

The GMS was founded in 1988 as the Georgia Microscopical Study Group and later changed its name to the Georgia Microscopical Society. Similar to the State Microscopical Society of Illinois, the GMS

is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization of people who use light and electron microscopes for work, instruction and pleasure. Our membership of approximately 70 individual and corporate members includes chemists, forensic scientists, photographers, biologists, teachers, geologists, students and laypersons. Meetings are held at various locations, mostly in the Atlanta area, and focus on sharing developments and experiences.



Encouraging people to learn about microscopy is an important function of the society. GMS members serve as judges in science fairs and participate in a variety of educational and community service activities. Presentations are given at state and national meetings, and the "Walter C. McCrone Student Science Award" is given to select participants of the Georgia Science and Engineering Fair.

A Young People's Microscopy Course, which is taught by GMS members, is open to secondary school students and teachers, and has been held one or more times a year since 1990. Learn more at www.georgiamicro.org.

Inter/Micro 2010

Chicago, July 12-16

An international microscopy conference sponsored by McCrone Research Institute



Please visit **WWW.MCRI.ORG** for more information.