



THOMAS ORR SITZ (1944-2010)

Past Academy President (1995-1996), Dr. Thomas Orr Sitz, of Blacksburg, Virginia died Tuesday, September 28, 2010 at Montgomery Regional Hospital. Born in Newport, Rhode Island on December 9, 1944 to the late John Harry and Margaret McCullough Sitz. He received a B.S. in Biology from Virginia Tech in 1967 and a Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1971. Dr. Sitz received a prestigious post-doctoral appointment at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas under Dr. Harris Busch and was later appointed to a faculty position from 1971-75. He then was a member of the Chemistry Department at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia where he continued his research from 1975-82. Dr. Sitz recently retired from Virginia Tech and was granted Professor Emeritus. He was Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Anaerobic Microbiology in the College of Agriculture and Life Science, and Director of Premedical Studies. He was the recipient of the Alumni Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising in 1982.

He is survived by his wife, Bonnie Crabtree Sitz of Blacksburg; daughter and son-in-law, Molly Sitz Moore and husband Rear Admiral Scott P. Moore of Virginia Beach; sisters, Lucy Aginiga of Chula Vista, California, Margaret Cullifer of Hatteras, North Carolina; brother, John Sitz of Ocracoke, North Carolina; grandchildren, Rachel Laughlin Moore, Sarah Buckley Moore, Thomas Dewey Moore, IV.

Dr. Sitz was a strong supporter and treasured asset to the Academy. He will be greatly missed.

**Establishment of Thomas O. Sitz
Memorial Student Award**

When Thomas O. Sitz died in September, after a long battle with cancer, the Virginia Academy of Science and Virginia Tech lost a wonderful colleague and an inspirational friend. He was Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Anaerobic Microbiology and Director of Premedical Studies at Virginia Tech. He served as President of VAS in 1995-1996, was a Fellow of the Academy, and provided leadership and brought his students to the Chemistry Section for many years. The Council of the Academy proposes to honor Tom by establishing a VAS Student Award in memory of his scientific work, his generous teaching, and his joyous spirit. We hope that Tom's colleagues and friends will feel this is a fitting recognition of what his life and example have meant to all of us. Just as Tom focused his energies on developing the next generation of scientists and science education, so, too, does this award seek to serve that noble purpose. To assist the Academy in funding the Sitz Award, we request that you send your contributions to:

Dr. Arthur Conway, Executive Officer
Virginia Academy of Science
Science Museum of Virginia
2500 West Broad Street
Richmond, Virginia 23220