

Scholarship: The Francis J. Reynolds Chemistry Scholarship

Date established: 1995

Recipient requirements:

This scholarship is designated for students in their sophomore, junior or senior years (30 credits completed at WCU prior to the time of application) who are registered in one of the five Chemistry Department degree programs. Applicants will be judged by the Chemistry Department Scholarship committee on their college performance, extracurricular activities and a short personal essay. The value of the scholarship will be applied to the expenses of the following spring semester.

Brief biography of person/organization in whose name is being established:

Francis J. Reynolds, better known as Frank, was a native of Pottsville, PA and taught organic chemistry at WCU. He had an undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, but chose to complete his doctorate in organic chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania. He began teaching chemistry at West Chester State College while he completed his thesis. He enjoyed teaching so much that he then applied for a permanent position. Meanwhile, he began singing tenor roles in Gilbert and Sullivan productions as well as more current dinner theatre musicals. One year when the Arden Theater in Delaware was doing "1776" he came to school dressed as Benjamin Franklin and gave his lectures "in character". His other favorite pastime was a portrayal of Benjamin Franklin in events around the Delaware Valley. Frank was known for his adherence to excellent performance standards both in the classroom and on stage and was well liked by students for his sense of humor and his singing of Tom Lehrer's "Chemical Elements