

The 1995 Ralph and Helen Oesper Awardee

Honoring

Gregory R. Choppin

Professor Gregory R. Choppin was born in Texas in 1927. He received his BS degree in chemistry from Loyola University of the South and his PhD from the University of Texas in Austin. From 1953 to 1956 he was a postdoctoral research associate at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory where he worked with Glenn T. Seaborg and his team on new elements. During that time he was a co-discoverer of Element 101, Mendelevium. In 1956 he accepted appointment to the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at Florida State University where he was promoted to full Professor in 1963. He served as Chair of the Department from 1968-1977 and 1993-1994. In 1968 he was appointed the R. O. Lawton Distinguished Professor of Chemistry. He spent sabbatical years at the Center for Nuclear Energy in Belgium, and at the Institute for Transuranium Elements in Germany. He has served as Visiting Lecturer at the University of Liege, Ain Shams University (Egypt), the University of Oporto, and the Science University of Tokyo.

The interest in the actinide elements and in radiochemistry that Choppin developed during his postdoctoral appointment at Berkeley has continued to be the primary focus of his research interests. At FSU he initiated a program in the behavior in aqueous solution of the lanthanide and actinide elements. This interest in solution chemistry has been directed to the thermodynamic changes of complexes with both organic and inorganic ligands.

Choppin has received a number of awards in recognition of his contributions to chemical research. He has been given honorary degrees by Loyola University and Chalmers University (Sweden). He has also received an Alexander Von Humboldt U.S. Senior Scientist Award, ACS Award for Nuclear Chemistry, The Seaborg Award in Separation Science, the Southern Chemist Award of ACS, the Gold Medal of the Florida Academy of Sciences, and a Presidential Citation for Outstanding service to Nuclear Science and Technology by the American Nuclear Society.