

Laudatio of President Dr. Robert M. Gates, Texas A&M University/USA, on Professor Herrmann upon the conferment of the Honorary PhD (Doctor of Letters Degree); University Commencement Ceremony, College Station/Texas (USA), May 12, 2006.

Wolfgang A. Herrmann

Wolfgang A. Herrmann, widely regarded as one of the world's most important figures in chemistry and higher education generally, is President and Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at the Technical University of Munich. He has made fundamental contributions to organometallic chemistry and catalysis, and his discoveries have resulted in a significant impact in a broad range of areas, from industrial catalysts to the effects of metals in biological systems.

Prof. Herrmann is the author or co-author of approximately 650 research papers and numerous other scientific writings and holds 50 patents. He ranks among the world's most cited chemists in all branches of the subject, with only four others in his field of inorganic chemistry having higher rankings.

Prof. Herrmann received his doctorate at the University of Regensburg in 1973. After working at the University of Regensburg and the University of Frankfurt, he moved to Germany's most coveted chair in inorganic chemistry at the Technical University of Munich, where he was later elected President in 1995. He was re-elected in 2001. Prior to that time, he served in a postdoctoral position at Pennsylvania State University.

Among his many honors and visiting professorships, Prof. Herrmann received the American Chemical Society Award in Organometallic Chemistry in 2004. He was awarded the Order of Honor by the President of France in 2000. He is also a member of the selection committee of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation that awards fellowships to American postdoctoral students and professors to visit Germany for periods of up to one year. In 1991, Dr. Herrmann visited Texas A&M as a "Frontiers in Chemistry" lecturer and has since made other visits to the university.