

Malcolm G. McLaren

July 22, 1928 – April 13, 1996

Malcolm McLaren was an internationally recognized leader in the ceramics industry. He began his academic career in 1962 when he joined Rutgers – immediately after earning his PhD degree. In 1969, he was appointed Chair of the Ceramics Department, a position he held for 25 years. During this time he built the then-small program into a world-renowned center. This period of growth encompassed the establishment of several technology centers, including the Center for Ceramic Research, the Fiber Optic Materials Research Program, the Center for Plastics Recycling and the Institute of Engineered Materials.



Internationally recognized for his work in ceramics, he authored or coauthored more than 100 publications and lectured widely in the United States, Europe, Brazil, Australia, and China. He held various leadership positions in professional organizations around the world. He served as President of the American Ceramic Society (1979-1980), the International Ceramic Federation, and the Academy of Ceramics. He was named a Fellow of the American Ceramic Society in 1968, and in 1987 received its highest award, Distinguished Life Member.

Mal devoted much time in his professional life to the enhancement of student life, whether it was assisting students in finding a summer job, research opportunities, or helping them find their first job after graduation. In this educational role he participated actively in the Ceramic Education Council of ACerS as well as being an active member of the National Institute of Ceramic Engineers and serving on the accreditation committee for Ceramic Engineering programs throughout the country for NICE. In 1973, he was honored as one of the Outstanding Educators in America.

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(From his obituary, Bulletin of the Amer. Ceramic Soc., June 1996, p206 – Contributed by Richard L. Lehman)