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EDWARD SAMULSKI NAMED STATE DEPARTMENT JEFFERSON SCIENCE FELLOW



Washington - U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice introduced UNC distinguished chemist Edward T. Samulski as a new Jefferson Science Fellow, chosen to offer science counsel to the U.S. Department of State, at a Tuesday, May 24th, ceremony held in the State Department's Benjamin Franklin Room.

Samulski, Cary C. Boshamer professor of chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, is one of five tenured professors nationwide to receive the prestigious State Department honor.

Former Secretary of State Colin L. Powell established the program in October 2003 to continue elevating the role of science and technology in U.S. foreign policy. The program brings renowned science professors from American universities to the State Department for one-year assignments, followed by a five-year consultancy after they return to their academic careers.

The Jefferson Fellows are chosen through a competition administered by the National Academy of Sciences and the Office of the Science and Technology Adviser to the Secretary of State. They are selected for their scientific achievements, articulation and communication skills, abilities to accurately describe scientific topics for non-scientific audiences and their interest in science and engineering policy.

"The Jefferson Fellowship honors one of our nation's most brilliant and innovative presidents, and the fellowship program is designed to bring such people to help our government with the challenges of our society and our science," said Bruce Carney, senior associate dean for the sciences and the Samuel Baron distinguished professor of physics and astronomy at UNC.

"Ed Samulski is being honored above many other extremely talented faculty from across the nation. The honor is well-deserved, and I have no doubt that his service will be of great value to all of us," he added.

The salary and benefits of each Jefferson Fellow are being paid by the academic institution at which the tenured appointment is held. Each fellow also will receive a stipend of \$50,000 from funding provided by the MacArthur Foundation and the Carnegie Corp. The Jefferson Fellows will travel occasionally as a part of their tenure, and stipends will be available for that purpose.

"This new program is superbly designed to enable science and policy to interface," said Samulski. "Its creators have done a brilliant job of ensuring that nonpartisan, objective information can be provided and integrated smoothly into policy decisions."

Samulski said he was looking forward to the challenge of working in areas with which he was not as familiar. "I think they are interested in having people who can look at a wide range of scientific subjects analytically and anticipate the implications for policy. This kind of problem solving is very appealing to me.

"Science is a universal language, with the capacity to unite individuals and nations around the globe. Its importance can only increase over the coming decades as the world shrinks and the playing field levels. To be able to contribute to this future is an honor for me."

Samulski has been a member of the UNC faculty since January 1988 and was chairman of the chemistry department from 1995-2000. His major research interests are the structure and dynamics of soft materials such as liquid crystals and elastic polymers. In 2004, Samulski and his students announced that they had found unequivocal evidence of a biaxial nematic liquid crystal, a scientific achievement that had eluded researchers for more than 30 years.

He is co-director of the multi-university NASA Institute on Biologically Inspired Materials, a NASA-funded consortium of research institutions that is working to create new materials that might revolutionize civil aviation and space travel.

[Link to Professor Samulski's Web Page](#)



On Tuesday, May 24, 2005, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice introduced the 2005-2006 Jefferson Science Fellows that will begin working at the State Department in September 2005. This event took place in the Benjamin Franklin Room of the U.S. Department of State before invited guests.

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The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Department of Chemistry
Campus Box 3290
Venable and Kenan Laboratories
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3290 USA
Phone: (919) 843-8109

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Content Manager: chemcontent@unc.edu