

Victor Viola

Vic Viola arrived at IU in 1980, after 14 years on the faculty at the University of Maryland preceded by more than five postdoctoral years that took him from Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory to the European Center for Nuclear Research (CERN) in Geneva, Switzerland, and finally to Argonne National Laboratory. Vic thinks of this time as his itinerant postdoc years. He was attracted to IU by the unique capabilities of the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility, the highly ranked chemistry department, the nationally recognized quality of the IU faculty, and the best basketball mind among active coaches. He was honored with a Guggenheim fellowship for his first IU year. Twenty-five years later he retired as a distinguished professor of chemistry.

Vic was born in Abilene, Kansas, in 1935 and attended the University of Kansas, graduating Phi Beta Kappa in 1957. He began graduate studies at the University of California, Berkeley and obtained his Ph.D. in 1961 working for the Nobel Laureate Glenn Seaborg. He then spent two years as instructor at Berkeley and as a postdoc at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory studying nuclear reaction mechanisms. His research continued at CERN on NSF and Ford Foundation fellowships. The work at CERN was then extended to the new ZGS accelerator at Argonne, after which he began his academic career at the University of Maryland. At Maryland he initiated a program in nuclear astrophysics, which continued at IU and eventually explained the cosmic origin of the elements lithium, beryllium, and boron. He was a visiting professor in Berkeley during his 1973-74 sabbatical, where he began a collaborative effort that led to the discovery of "nuclear molecules." This program continued well into the 1980s. During its latter stages his group became interested in the formation of nuclear clusters produced from very hot nuclei. These studies have recently provided evidence for a possible liquid-to-gas phase transition in nuclear matter, a result that may have relevance to reactions that occur in supernova explosions.

Throughout his studies Vic was heavily involved with teaching undergraduates in addition to his own Ph.D. students. Literally thousands of students both at Maryland and IU have benefited from Vic's large first-year chemistry courses. His true love is, however, his nuclear chemistry course for juniors and seniors. It has become a staple of the chemistry undergraduate curriculum.

Vic and his wife Nancy have been married for 42 years. Their three children, Charley, Randy, and Gina, all live in Colorado, providing a superb and continuing rationale for Vic's skiing in the Rockies. Charley has three children, Lauren, Elise, and Alexander, and Gina has one son, Ben. Skiing has been a family staple for Vic and his children for 40 years. It is now continuing with his grandchildren.

While his colleagues appreciate Vic's enviable academic and research accomplishments, they also enjoy his deep interest in IU sports, particularly track and field, where he continues to be a practitioner, and basketball. He is closely associated with the former and a highly informed commentator on the latter. His office door is a widely read bulletin board for Vic's views on these subjects as well as on other issues of the day. Vic is known for articulating positions that might often seem to be the province of that famous group, the "silent majority."

In addition to the Guggenheim fellowship Vic's honors include the American Chemical Society (ACS) Award for Research in Nuclear Chemistry. He has been elected to fellow status in the American Physical Society and in the American Association for the Advancement of Science. At IU he was elevated in 1990 to the rank of distinguished professor and has received the prestigious Sonneborn Award. He has authored more than 250 papers as well as encyclopedia articles on both nuclear reactions and the origin of the chemical elements. He has held lectureships at Simon Fraser University and Texas A&M University. His interest in teaching nuclear phenomena has resulted in the publication of a high school monograph on nuclear chemistry and several popular articles in *Scientific American* and *American Scientist*. He has edited two conference proceedings and organized several conference symposia. Vic was elected to a term as chairman of the Division of Nuclear Chemistry and Technology of the ACS and has served for numerous years on the executive committee of this division. He has also been on the executive committee of the American Physical Society's Division of Nuclear Chemistry. Although a critic of the Bloomington Faculty Council, Vic will, when pressed, admit to having served on it. His vita reveals that he spent many years on the steering committee of the Alliance of Distinguished and Titled Professors and on more committees than one normally cares to remember, including three-year terms on the tenure committees of both the College and the dean of the faculties. During 1986-87 he was director of the Indiana University Cyclotron Facility. He has been a member and/or chair of numerous DOE and NSF review and program advisory committees at Lawrence Berkeley, Argonne, Los Alamos, Livermore, and Oak Ridge national laboratories, as well as at the accelerators at Michigan State University and IU.