

2014 Nobel Prize – Ties to ECS

The Nobel Prize in Physics 2014 was awarded jointly to **ISAMU AKASAKI**, **HIROSHI AMANO**, and **SHUJI NAKAMURA** “for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources.” The investigation of light emitting materials is firmly established in the technical area of ECS and we are thrilled that the invention of efficient LEDs is deemed significant enough to deserve the Nobel Prize. We are even more thrilled that some of the awardees also have an association with ECS.

Shuji Nakamura of University of California, Santa Barbara, was the plenary speaker at the 218th ECS meeting in Las Vegas. There, on Monday, October 11, 2010, he gave a presentation entitled “Current and Future Status of Nitride-based Solid State Lighting.”

Isamu Akasaki (Meijo University and Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan) is a current ECS member. Hiroshi Amano is from Nagoya University, Nagoya, Japan. All three awardees have authored articles in the *Journal of The Electrochemical Society* and presently these articles are available to download for free. Please see the ECS Redcat Blog at <http://www.ecsblog.org/awards/shuji-nakamura-awarded-nobel-prize/> for links to the articles.

The official Nobel Prize history page describes the events leading to the award considerations as follows: “When Isamu Akasaki, Hiroshi Amano and Shuji Nakamura produced bright blue light beams from their semi-conductors in the early 1990s, they triggered a fundamental transformation of lighting technology. Red and green diodes had been around for a long time, but without blue light, white lamps could not be created. Despite considerable efforts, both in the

scientific community and in industry, the blue LED had remained a challenge for three decades.” Now, the white LEDs for household use are becoming, though still a bit expensive, common place items.

The Nobel Laureates take center stage in Stockholm on 10 December, when they receive the Nobel Medal, Nobel Diploma and a document confirming the Nobel Prize amount from King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden. ■

New & Notab!e

HENRY S. WHITE (ECS member 1985), a distinguished professor of chemistry and former chair of the University of Utah’s Department of Chemistry, will serve as the new dean of the University of Utah College of Science starting July 1, 2015.

RODNEY S. RUOFF (ECS member from 2007-2011), distinguished professor at the Ulsan National Institute of Science and Technology (UNIST), South Korea, will receive the David Turnbull Leadership Award of MRS.

In Memoriam

Genelle Phillips Branneky (1926-2014)



GENELLE PHILLIPS BRANNEKY

GENELE BRANNEKY, (née Phillips), non-technical registration hostess for The Electrochemical Society meetings and wife of former Executive Director of The Electrochemical Society, died peacefully on Saturday, October 18, 2014.

Genelle Branneky was born on July 10, 1926 in St. Charles, Missouri. Her parents were the late Ersie and Clemens Phillips. She was preceded in death by her brother, Harlan, who died in 1972 at the age of 50. She is survived by her husband, V. H. "Bud" Branneky; her two daughters, SuAnne

B. Aune of Greer, South Carolina and Jane K. Branneky of West Palm Beach, Florida, and fifteen first cousins.

Genelle graduated from Lindenwood University in 1948. She was a volunteer at St. Luke's Hospital in Missouri for ten years and a member of their Auxiliary. She married V. H. "Bud" Branneky, former Executive Director of The Electrochemical Society, in 1948.

Genelle Branneky became a volunteer hostess for the non-technical attendees at the semiannual meetings of The Electrochemical Society during Bud Branneky's period as Executive Director from 1975-1991. She was a great ambassador for ECS and a familiar face at all the ECS meetings during Mr. Branneky's term of service. She conveyed strong spousal and guest support and welcomed The Electrochemical Society family members to the meetings. Genelle also was active in the Women's Club of Pennington and served as its President for several years.

The funeral was held on Wednesday, October, 22, 2014 at St. John United Church of Christ in St. Charles. For those wishing to make a memorial donation, the family suggests St. John UCC or FVC Employee Appreciation Fund (Friendship Village Chesterfield) 15201 Olive Blvd, Chesterfield, MO 63017. ■