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**OKLAHOMA SCIENTIST OF THE YEAR — 2006****Dr. Ziad El Rassi**

Dr. Ziad El Rassi, Professor of Chemistry at Oklahoma State University, was named Oklahoma Scientist of the Year by the Academy at its annual Technical Meeting on 3 November 2006.

Dr. El Rassi earned his B.S. with honors in chemistry at Lebanese University in Beirut, Lebanon, in 1972, and his M.S and Ph.D. in analytical chemistry from Claude-Bernard University in Lyon, France. His dissertation title was *Surface Modification of Porous Silica Gels Used in High Performance Liquid Chromatography*.

Prior to his arrival at Oklahoma State University in 1988, Dr. El Rassi was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Surface Technology at Ecole Centrale de Lyon in France and an Associate Research Scientist in the Department of Chemical Engineering, Yale University. In 2001, he also was a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Analytical Chemistry and Radiochemistry at Leopold Franzen University, Innsbruck, Austria.

Dr. El Rassi's research focuses on developing methodologies to separate and identify components of complex mixtures, especially those of biological significance, via liquid phase separation techniques such as high performance liquid chromatography, capillary electrophoresis, and capillary electrochromatography. He is the author of

numerous publications that have garnered him national and international recognition. One nominator commented that "Here is a person whose name is synonymous with outstanding advances in capillary electrophoresis...one of the world's leading experts on the separation of chemical mixtures by electrophoresis. He has examined complex mixtures of everything — from glycosides to carbohydrates to nucleosides to insecticides — and his work is done with great flair and appreciation for what is practical." Dr. El Rassi has received almost \$1.5 million in research support and been research advisor to 24 graduate and undergraduate students. In addition to publishing 159 journal papers and giving 98 oral presentations at scientific meetings, he has edited 29 different books, proceedings of symposia, and thematic issues in different journals. He received the OSU Regents Distinguished Research Award in 2005.

Because of his research activities, Dr. El Rassi was appointed Associate Editor of the international journal *Electrophoresis* in 1994 and Editor-in-Chief in 2004. As one of his nominators noted "...to be appointed to this position requires the support of his peers and leaders in this field. This is a singular honor for him..." Dr. El Rassi also serves on the editorial boards of four other well-known chemical journals.

Dr. El Rassi has made a significant contribution to science in Oklahoma via his research, mentoring of students, and contribution to his discipline. We congratulate him on his numerous achievements and as being named Oklahoma Scientist of the Year.