

Dr. Mildred B. Perry, “Millie” was born in Erin, TN. Millie received her B.S. in Chemistry at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville, TN. She later earned a Master of Science in Biology, also at Austin Peay State University. In 1983, she was awarded the Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville). Millie was very active and productive all her life. She applied her boundless energy, creativity, and excellent organizational skills to everything in her life. She loved spelunking, the French horn, painting, writing poetry, wild flowers, roses, cats, single malt scotch, and good wine.

Millie's first career was as a public-school teacher in the years 1965 to 1977 teaching the sciences in Dekalb County GA, Nashville TN, and Clarksville TN. During that time, she coordinated a summer workshop for teachers in Outdoor Education (NSF), chaired a textbook adoption committee, conducted in-service education for teachers, organized a Spring Extravaganza (as education chairman of the Warrenton Audubon Society), reinstated the Clarksville High School Science Fair; and was recognized as Conservation Educator of the Year, Outstanding Teacher of the Year, and was named a Fellow in the Tennessee Academy of Science. She did all of that **before** receiving her Ph.D.!

After receiving that Ph.D., she spent a brief time as a postdoc at Pitt. Then she went to what is now the Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory in Pittsburgh. She began as a Research Chemist developing characterization methods in the Coal Science Division. She served as a Process Chemistry Branch Chief in the Direct Coal Liquefaction Division, a Branch Chief in the Flue Gas Cleanup Division, and then a Project Manager in the Advanced Crosscutting Technologies and Environmental Projects Divisions. She served as a Senior Analyst in the Office of Coal and Environmental Systems. And finally, as a Physical Scientist/Senior Advisor on the International Programs Team.

Millie served as a volunteer in many education-related activities in the Pittsburgh area, including serving as Chair of the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP). Millie was the 2003 President of The Pittsburgh Conference (now simply called PITTCON), she chaired the Pittsburgh Section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in 1992, the year the Section played co-host to the first International Chemistry Olympiad ever to be held in the U.S. She coordinated the SERVE (Scientists and Engineers Resource Volunteers for Education) for the U.S. Department of Energy in Pittsburgh, served on the Education Committee for the Allegheny County Air Pollution Control Advisory Committee, and served on the Scholarship/Grants Committee for the Pittsburgh Zonta Club, a 100-year old organization whose mission is raising the status of women in the workplace and furthering the interests of female professionals across the globe. Finally, she initiated the ACS Pittsburgh Section "On-the-Road" program, which now has evolved to this lecture in her honor.