



# March 30, 2015 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



## Terrance Gary Cooper Class of 1960

Terrance Gary Cooper distinguished himself as a world-renowned educator and scholar in the fields of microbiology and immunology, as an author of numerous scientific studies, and as a mentor-trainer for graduate students and faculty members.

Terry Cooper graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1960. He was a member of the W.A.A.C. class and the National Honor Society. His interest in photography placed him on the Wy-News staff, where he served as editor of Roosevelt's student newspaper.

Terry Cooper attended Wayne State University and earned his B.S. degree in Biology in 1965 and his M.S. degree in Chemistry in 1967. Terry earned his Ph.D. in Biology in 1969 from Purdue University. He completed a post-doctoral Fellowship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in biology from 1969-71.

Terry Cooper began his career as a researcher in microbiology and immunology at the University of Pittsburgh. In 1971, he was the Associate Professor of Biochemistry and Genetics. During his last four years at the University of Pittsburgh, Terry Cooper served as the Audrey Avinoff Professor of Biology, Biochemistry and Genetics.

In 1985, Professor Terry Cooper began his long association with the University of Tennessee. His official title was Harriet S. Van Vleet Professor of Microbiology and Immunology. Cooper was the Department Chairman of the Health Sciences Center, and the Director of the Molecular Resource Center.

The focus of Professor Cooper's life-long research was the study of the UT Yeast group and how the use of the Rapamycin family of drugs affects tissue and organ rejection, multiple cancers, stents, coagulation and other downstream cellular processes and events.

His position at the University of Tennessee allowed him to work with and train graduate students from around the world. The 37 students who studied with Professor Cooper would bring their knowledge of microbiology and immunology research to their home countries where they would continue to improve the health care of the world.

As Director of the Memphis Molecular Resource Center for over 16 years, Professor Cooper also mentored 24 faculty members.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Professor Cooper presented 37 lectures annually on Molecular Techniques and Dental Biochemistry at the university. Cooper also presented hundreds of scientific papers, guest lectures, and presentations on microbiology and immunology, to university and government health organizations the world over. Cooper has participated in symposiums in Austria, Canada, Spain, South Africa, Egypt, Mexico, Italy, Czech Republic, Portugal, England, Poland and Australia. Professor Cooper's work has also been part of almost every university or health organization in the United States.

Professor Terry Cooper serves on many professional organizations as chairman or board member. Cooper is also on the editorial boards of such scientific publications as The Journal of Biological Chemistry and Molecular Biology and FEMS Yeast Research. Cooper also serves as a senior consultant for the Gulf Oil Corporation and Nippon Mining Corporation.

In addition to Professor Cooper's 234 published research studies and presentations, his 1977 publication of *The Tools of Biochemistry* has become the classic text for health scholars world-wide. Now in its 17<sup>th</sup> printing, this textbook is available in Chinese, French, Spanish and German editions.

His 44 years of dedicated service have earned Terry Cooper many honors and awards. More than 40 organizations have recognized his scholarship and contributions to the fields of microbiology and immunology. The world has honored a truly dedicated scientist.

In spite of all the accolades that have been awarded to Terry Cooper, his personal philosophy has always guided his dedicated service to the humanity: "Accomplishment is not about what you get, but what you give to those in whose lives you are privileged to participate."

Terrance Cooper and his wife, Martha Howe, live in Memphis, Tennessee. They enjoy their two sons, Mark and Gregory, and their families.