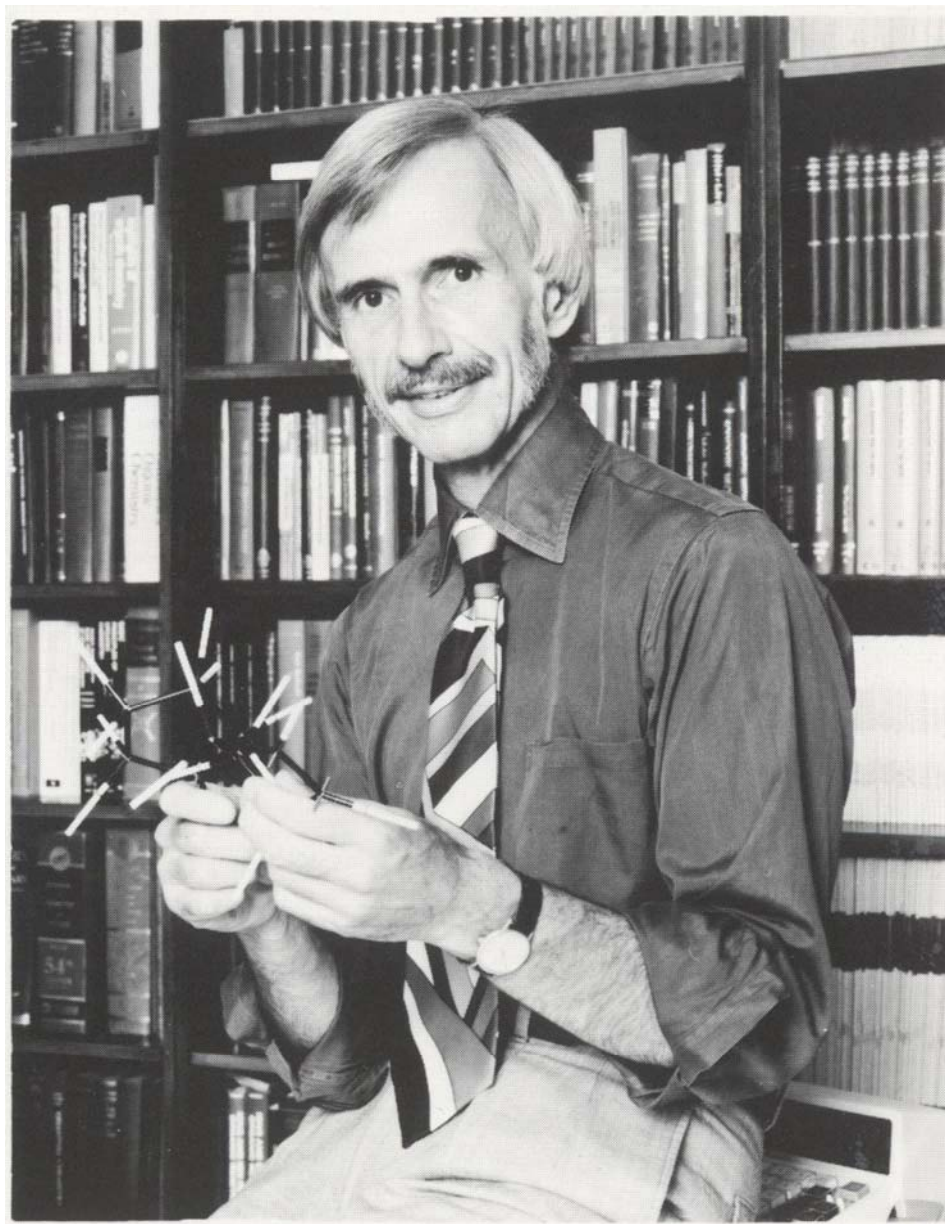


ROBERT MORRIS, FRSC

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**Alexander Jerry Kresge**  
**1926-2010**



Professor Alexander Jerry Kresge, BA, PhD, FCIC, FRSC, died on Sunday, June 5, 2010 in Toronto. He was one of the most eminent practitioners in the field of Physical Organic Chemistry.

He was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. on July 17, 1926. He received his undergraduate education at Cornell University (1945-1949) and obtained a PhD at the University of Illinois under the guidance of Nelson Leonard in 1953. He did postdoctoral work at three institutions, first University College, London as a Fulbright Scholar with C. K. Ingold and E. D. Hughes (1953-54), at Purdue with H. C. Brown (1954-55) and at M.I.T. with C. G. Swain (1955-57). He joined Brookhaven National Laboratory as an Associate Chemist (1957-60) and then the Illinois Institute of Technology as an assistant Professor in 1960. He rose rapidly through the ranks with appointments as Associate Professor in 1964 and Professor in 1968. In 1974 he accepted the position of Professor at the University of Toronto, Chemistry Department, and was based at Scarborough College. He conducted outstanding research on the mechanisms of organic reactions that now appear in textbooks. In all he had published over 350 articles. With his wife Yvonne Chiang (already deceased), he conducted leading research on the chemistry of short-lived intermediates and of enols and enolates. The Kresges' presence at Scarborough College along with Professors Thomas T. Tidwell, FRSC, and Robert A. McClelland (both now Emeritus) created a world-leading centre of excellence in Physical Organic Chemistry. He retired in 1992 but continued to work as an Emeritus Professor in his lab in the Lash Miller Chemical Laboratories until 2007.

Professor Kresge's accomplishments were recognized by a number of honors. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 1986 and a Fellow of the Chemical Institute of Canada. He held Eli Lilly, Guggenheim, Killam, Yamada, and NSF Senior Fellowships, and he received the Syntex Award in 1988, the Morley Medal in 1988 and the prestigious Ingold Lecture Award in 1995.

Kresge was named Visiting Professor at several Universities and gave many named lectures. He served as Vice Chairman of the Gordon Conference on the Chemistry and Physics of Isotopes and on the Editorial Advisory Boards of *Isotopes in Organic Chemistry* and the *Journal of Physical Organic Chemistry*. A special issue of the *Canadian Journal of Chemistry* was dedicated to him in 1999.

Jerry was a private person. His colleagues knew him as a real gentleman. He leaves three children, now adults: Nell from his first marriage with Mary Free, and Peter and Nicole from his second with Yvonne.

*Dr. Robert Morris, FRSC  
Professor and Interim chair of Chemistry  
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*(Author's title given as of the time of writing)*