

Dear Colleagues:

This issue is the first of two dedicated to the memory of Professor Jaime Retuert. The remembrance was made by Professor Francisco Martinez who was his first Doctorate student.

Dr. Carlos Díaz Valenzuela
EDITOR

In memory of Dr. Jaime Retuert de la Torre

Dr. Jaime Retuert de la Torre, a dear colleague and member of our chemical community passed away on February 5th, 2007. Jaime was born on December, 1943; made his high school studies in the Luis Campino School and attended the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, graduating as Chemist the year 1969. Later on, he joined the academic staff of the Department of Chemistry at the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Chile. A short time later he traveled to Germany, through a DAAD scholarship, to perform his Doctorate studies with Prof. Ekkehard Fluck in the University of Stuttgart, obtaining the degree of Doctor Rer. Nat. (Doctor in Sciences) in 1972 with the work "*Über phosphobetaine*".

After he returned from Germany, Dr. Retuert organo-phosphor compounds. In these investigations creativity and abilities in the chemical synthesis demonstrating a great enthusiasm, dedication and to Germany thanks to a Alexander von Humboldt the appointment of Full Professor at the University strong links with German colleagues from different as Visiting Professor. Additionally, he related and colleagues from Spain (CSIC, Instituto de Ciencia y least once a year.

His first investigations were in the inorganic area, of natural polymers, their modification and chemistry research to investigations about materials prepared by in their scientific task, Jaime was recognized by their of the subject, allowing him to collaborate with

Jaime, with his serene and sincere look and his humility, sincerity, loyalty and integrity for all of us. capacity and ability for working and teaching. We and how he cultivated what we called "the academy", offering and transmitting all his experience to his students, with whom he grew a close relationship even after several years of having worked together.

How to forget the rides to his house in Maitencillo and celebrations in his Laboratory, always plenty of students, colleagues and friends, in an atmosphere of the happiness, respect and camaraderie. His hospitality with each foreign visitor was recognized by all, each Professor, investigator, undergraduate, graduate student, or foreign postdocs who visited him. He was always in charge to take them to the surroundings of Santiago, Farellones, Valparaiso, Viña del Mar, and obviously Maitencillo. All those people have the best memories of their Professor or colleague, keeping a wonderful image of his generous personality and warmth t welcome that they had in him.

Jaime, with whom we had the luck to share so many and gratifying times, was synonymous of kindness, confidence, culture, timid sense of humor, adventurous spirit, remarkable investigator, always looking for the impossible to find. Exemplary father, husband and inseparable companion, unconditional friend, faultless teacher, a human being very rich in values and virtues, the major one being his extreme humility, Jaime was a man who always stood out for his discretion, being beloved by those who surround him. After a year, we still have not found a reason for his quick departure.

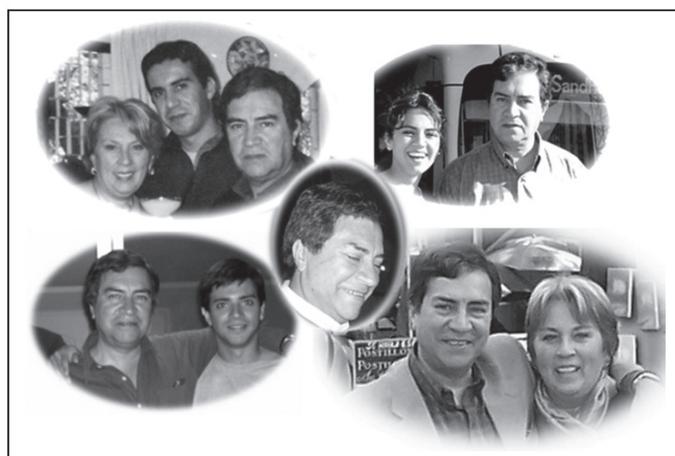
The absence of our colleague, is an irreparable loss to his wife Frida and his daughter Karina and their sons Claudio and Alejandro, but it is also a loss to our community, especially in the Material Science Department, for those we had him always close and we had the luck to share great, significant and pleasing moments of the life, but mainly for the great human being, who left us a deep track of admiration by his person and all whom treated him.



directed his first graduate thesis in the area of he already showed his admirable knowledge, and characterization of new structures, always commitment as investigator. In 1982 he returned Foundation fellowship. The year 1987 he acquired of Chile. Later on, he would continue maintaining Universities, coming back to Germany in 1992 maintained collaboration projects with several Tecnología de Polímeros de Madrid) visiting them al

from where little by little he moved towards chemistry of hybrid materials, dedicating the last years of the sol-gel method. With a high level of excellence colleagues for his great expertise and knowledge different national and international groups.

great sensitivity with his surroundings, left a lesson of He was gifted with a big creativity and an enormous learned to admire his great dedication to research,



Dr. Jaime Retuert with his wife Frida, his daughter Karina and sons Claudio and Alejandro.

Invited mini review



Wolfgang Kaim studied chemistry and physics in Frankfurt/Main and Konstanz, obtained his PhD degree with Hans Bock at the age of 26 and went with a Liebig Fellowship to F.A. Cotton at Texas A&M University. He returned to Frankfurt for the Habilitation, started a research group, and moved to Stuttgart in 1987 to assume the chair of coordination chemistry. He has been a Visiting or Adjunct Professor at several universities in the Americas and in China and is the author of more than 500 scientific papers, in addition to the book *Bioinorganic Chemistry: Inorganic Elements in the Chemistry of Life* (together with Brigitte Schwederski). His research interest focuses on electron transfer reactivity of newly synthesized molecules.