CSULA Emeriti Faculty Biography

Name: Donald Paulson

Department: Chemistry and Biochemistry

Academic rank: Professor of Chemistry

Year appointed: 1970 **Year retired**: 2002 **FERP years:** Four

City of residence: Ouray, Colorado



Email: drpaulson@ouraynet.com

Birth Place: Oak Park, IL

Birth Year: 1943 **Marital status**: Married - August 20, 1966

Spouse or partner's name: Elizabeth Anne Goodwin Paulson

Family information: Sons Matthew and Andrew; six grandchildren

Colleges or Universities Attended:	**Year:**	**Degree:**
Monmouth College	1961-65	BA in Chemistry
Indiana University	1965-68	Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry

Teaching Experience:

Institution	**From:**	**To:**
Professor, California State University, Los Angeles	1970	2006

Courses taught:

- Organic Chemistry (Chem 301ABC, Chem 302ABC)
- Advanced Synthetic Methods (Chem 327)
- Advanced Organic Chemistry (Chem 420)
- Writing for Chemists (Chem 360)
- Special Topics in Chemistry (Chem 354)
- Special Topics in Graduate Chemistry (Chem 505)
- Topics in Physical Science Content and Pedagogy (PSCI 461)
- Motion and Energy for Elementary Teachers (PSCI 180)
- Structure and Properties of Matter for Elementary Teachers (PSCI 181)
- The Chemistry of Everyday Things (Chem 158)

Scholarly/Creative Activity:

- Research Grants: Over $2.2 million in research funds obtained from government and private sources since 1973. The majority of the funding has come from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.
- Research Students: Over 100 students (77 undergraduate, 17 graduate and 16 high school students) have conducted research in my laboratory since 1970. My students have presented 53 talks at scientific meetings and I have delivered over 50 talks and seminars on their research.
- Masters Theses Supervised (total of 10)
- Undergraduate Honors Theses Supervised (total of 12)

Administrative, Business, or Professional Experience (other than teaching):

- Research Chemist, Richardson Co., Melrose Park, Illinois, Summers, 1962-64
- Referee for *J. Org. Chem., J. Chem. Ed., and Inorg. Chim. Acta*
- Reviewer for National Science Foundation grants in science education
- Manuscript reviewer for Holt, Rinehart and Winston; Van Nostrand Reinhold; McGraw-Hill; Allyn and Bacon; and Oxford University Press
- Industrial consultant on polymer photochemistry

Awards, Honors, Professional Recognition:

- Lubrizol Fellow, Monmouth College, 1964-65
- National Institutes of Health Predoctoral Fellow, Indiana University, 1966-68
- National Institutes of Health, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Chicago, 1969-70
- Visiting Associate Professor, U. of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C., 1977-78
- Outstanding Professor Award, California State University, Los Angeles, September, 1979
- Visiting Professor, University of Sussex, Brighton, England, 1985
- CSULA Nominee, California State University Trustee's Outstanding Professor Award, 1984
- CSULA Outstanding Academic Citizen of the Year Award, 1994
- CSULA President’s Distinguished Professor Award, 1996-97

Citations of Selected Publications, Presentations and/or Creative Activities:
I have 33 published research papers in the areas of photochemistry, models for biological oxygenation, electron transfer, and science teaching pedagogy. Representative examples include:

1) D. R. Paulson, S. B. Bhakta, R. Y. Hyun, M. Yuen, C. E. Beaird, S. C. Lee, I. Kim, and J. Ybarra, Jr., "The Reaction of Ruthenium (II) Octaethylporphyrin and Ruthenium (II) Tetraphenylporphyrin Complexes with Carbon Monoxide," *Inorganica Chimica Acta*, **1988**,*151*, 149-152.
2) D. R. Paulson, W. D. Inman, K. A. J. Sanchez, and M. Chaidez, "The Photosensitized *Cis*/*Trans* Isomerization of 1-(1-propenyl)cycloalkenes," *J. Org. Chem.* **1989**, *54*, 4872-4881.
3) D. R. Paulson, J. L. Faust, "Active Learning in the College Classroom, *Journal on Excellence in College Teaching*, **1998**, *9*(2), 3-24.
4) D. R. Paulson, "Active Learning and Cooperative Learning in the Organic Chemistry Lecture Class, *"Journal of Chemical Education*., **1999**, *76*, 1136-1141.
5) D. R. Paulson, "Writing for Chemists: Satisfying the CSU Upper Division Writing Requirement," *J. Chem. Ed.* **2001**, *78*, 1047-1049.

Since retirement I have focused on my love of the history of the San Juan Mountains in Southwestern Colorado. I currently serve as the Curator of the Ouray County Museum in Ouray, Colorado. I have given dozens of presentations on Ouray County history a well as completed the following:

6) Editor of the *Ouray County Historical Society Journal*, Sept 2002 -present
7) Editor and Co-Author of *Narrow Gauge Railroading in the San Juan Triangle*, Mt. Sneffels Press, Ridgway, CO, 2009.
8) Jeff Burch and Don Paulson, 2012, *Peaks of the Uncompahgre: Labeled Images and Stories behind the names of the mountains surrounding Ouray, Colorado*, Coloradothirteeners.com, Delta, Colorado

University Service:

- Chief Premedical Advisor, 1975-82
- Chair, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, 1982-88; 89-91
- Academic Senate, 1976-87, 88-00; Vice Chair, 1986
- Faculty Affairs Committee, School of Natural and Social Sciences, 1980-1999, Chair, 1981-1996
- Steering Committee, School of Natural and Social Sciences, 1991- 1996 (Chair 1995-96)
- Executive Director of the NSF ACESS Program (1991-1993)
- CSULA Coordinator for the NSF Los Angeles Collaborative for Teacher Excellence, 1996-2003

Personal commentary:
I chose the Chemistry and Biochemistry Department at Cal State LA for my career because in 1970 it was the one place I found where excellence in both teaching and research was required and rewarded. I had many mentors in my early years of teaching. These would include, among others, Tony Andreoli, Joe Casanova, Lloyd Ferguson, Harold Goldwhite and Stan Pine. They taught me that the most important part of teaching was to help your students understand the material. I was fortunate to have a wonderful group of over 125 undergraduate and graduate students working in my lab over a 36-year period. I learned as much from them as they learned from me and I always tried to treat them as colleagues.

I was active in University service with 25 years as a member of the Academic Senate, 26 years as a member of my school's Faculty Affairs Committee, along with service on literally dozens of other school

and departmental committees. I also served as the chair of my department for 10 years. I consider Don Dewey to have been my mentor in these important university service areas.

About mid-way through my teaching career I became very interested in active learning methods in the lecture classroom. I found that these alternative modes of teaching reached many more of my students than just lecturing. I did some pioneering research in this area and published papers as well as gave talks and workshops on these teaching methods. I was fortunate to have some campus wide colleagues who were also experimenting with these new teaching methods. Dimitri Margaziotis in physics, Jennifer Faust in philosophy and Ken Anderson in biology immediately come to mind. I learned much from my many discussions with them. I am pleased today to see that many of my chemistry colleagues have also embraced these new teaching methods.

After my FERP years ended in 2006 my wife and I moved to Ouray, Colorado, a town of 850 people nestled at 8,000 feet in the San Juan Mountains of Southwestern Colorado. We jeep and hike in the summer and snowshoe and cross country ski in the winter. We have climbed eight 14,000-foot Colorado mountains. We only have 42 more to go! My hobby has always been the history of the southwestern Colorado and we spent many vacations here. I am now the Curator of the Ouray County Museum that is housed in the three-story, 130 year old Ouray Miner's Hospital. The Smithsonian Institution has called us the "Best Little Museum in the West," and Arthur Frommer's *The Rockies for Dummies* has said that "if you visit just one county museum in the Rockies, make it the Ouray Museum." I have edited four issues of the Museum's Journal and written two books on the area. I have also given numerous talks on local history and write a monthly history column for the local paper. In my spare time I practice my photography skills and work on my 30' x 40' basement HO model railroad layout based on the area's former narrow gauge railroads.

Date completed: February 17, 2012