

Renaissance man to speak on art, chemistry

Bader brings diversity to the university

By UW-Eau Claire News Bureau

A modern-day Renaissance man will give a series of lectures Wednesday and Sept. 22 at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire.

Alfred Bader, founder of Milwaukee's Aldrich Chemical and a world renowned collector of old Dutch paintings, is known for his enthusiasm for chemistry and passion for art. These interests have made him a favorite lecturer around the world.

While at UW-Eau Claire he will present some of his favorite topics, including the chemistry of art restoration, the Bible as represented by the Dutch masters and the history of chemistry, particularly his 19th century hero Josef Loschmidt. All presentations are free.

Bader's busy and diverse schedule will begin at 8 p.m. Wednesday when he will

meet with art students, faculty and others to speak about "The Rembrandt Research Project and the Collector" in Room 101 of the Fine Arts Center.

At 10 a.m. Sept. 22, he will switch gears and speak to chemistry students and faculty about Josef Loschmidt, the father of molecular modeling, in Room 481 of Phillips Science Hall.

At 1:30 p.m. Bader will present a seminar about the history of the Aldrich Chemical Company, now Sigma-Aldrich, to students in the School of Business entrepreneur program.

At 4 p.m. he will evaluate artwork for local art collectors in Room 201 of the Fine Arts Center. Johannes Dahle, executive director of the UW-Eau Claire Foundation, said Bader will advise local collectors about

their artwork and offer suggestions about selling art. To have a work evaluated, call 836-5630 for reservations.

As a culmination, Bader will give a Special Forum address on "The Bible Through Dutch Eyes and Reflections on Rembrandt" at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 22 in Room 101 of the Fine Arts Center. The presentation is co-sponsored by the Presidents Club of the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire Foundation.

Dahle said Bader's connections with the UW-Eau Claire Foundation go back to 1982, when Aldrich Chemical awarded chemistry professor Leo Ochrymowycz the Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Award. Bader also helped fund the first student research assistantships in the chemistry department that year and in 1984 created

the Leo Ochrymowycz Scholarship Fund for chemistry students.

Sigma-Aldrich today employs about 25 UW-EC alumni, according to Ochrymowycz, who helps coordinate placement for chemistry interns and graduates.

Besides building Aldrich Chemical, Bader has amassed an impressive collection of old masters' artworks, including a Rembrandt and a Rubens. Some of his acquisitions are for sale in his art gallery in Milwaukee's Astor Hotel, while others are on display in college and city art museums in the United States and Canada.

Part of Bader's collection was on loan to UW-Eau Claire's Foster Art Gallery in 1987, Dahle said.

"Alfred Bader exemplifies the goals of what UW-Eau Claire hopes to produce in its students through the redefined baccalaureate," Dahle said. "A man of great intellect and wide-ranging interests, he is dedicated

to the idea of helping others."

Born in 1924 in Vienna to a Hungarian mother and Jewish father, Bader was sent to England to finish high school because of the Nazi threat. He later was shipped off to Canada as an internee and finally was accepted by Queen's University in Kingston where he earned a B.S. degree in engineering chemistry, a B.A. in history, and an M.S. in organic chemistry.

After working for Murphy Paint Co. in Montreal, formulating paints and varnishes, he earned a doctorate in chemistry at Harvard and went on to do paint research for Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. in Milwaukee and began Aldrich Chemical in his garage with a \$500 investment.

This year the American Chemical Society selected Bader as the recipient of the 1995 Charles Lathrop Parsons Award, recognizing outstanding public service by an ACS member.



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