

Ladies and Gentlemen tonight is a very special night. Tonight we are here to recognize and celebrate an individual and their career long contributions to chemical testing in relation to transportation and workplace safety by conferring upon them the Kurt M. Dubowski Award, the highest honor the International Association for Chemical Testing will bestow upon one of its members.

The Dubowski award recognizes at least twenty years of active service in the field of alcohol / drugs and workplace or transportation safety with contributions to the field gaining national or international prominence as well as at least ten years of active and productive involvement as a member of the International Association for Chemical Testing.

Shirley G. Ezelle's career is best characterized by her unique balance between a driving passion for excellence and a sense of humor that makes her hard to forget. Her twenty eight plus years with the Arkansas Department of Health has produced a long productive career consistent with the ideals and achievements of the University of Oklahoma George Lynn Cross Distinguished Professor of

Medicine, Dr. Kurt M. Dubowski and the award's memoriam  
Professor Robert Borkenstein.

Shirley was born February 13, 1948 in Watson, Arkansas a small town in the southeastern part of the state. Upon graduation from high school, she entered the University of Arkansas in Monticello where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree with a major in chemistry and a minor in biology. While in college she performed quality control analyses of incendiary mixtures at the Pine Bluff Arsenal, a U.S Army installation that produces, renovates and stores various munitions for use in National defense and Homeland security.

After her university studies, Shirley was an educator for six years teaching science to high school students in the public schools of Monticello and Dewitt, Arkansas until she embarked upon her career with the Arkansas Department of Health in 1976 by accepting a position as a chemist in the Office of Alcohol Testing. It was with the Arkansas Department of Health where the largest portion of her contributions to chemical testing would take place. In 1976 she became a certified Law Enforcement Instructor and over the next

three decades personally trained literally thousands of law enforcement personnel in all aspects of chemical testing. I am told she became a legend within the local law enforcement community by instructing Breathalyzer operators in the proper thumb pop, a technique to open the reagent ampoules, and this technique has since become a common gesture of politicians everywhere attempting to emphatically make their case. In 1982 Shirley advanced to Laboratory Supervisor within the Alcohol Testing Program. In 1997 she was promoted to Acting Director and finally Director of Alcohol Testing in 1998. While in the Office of Alcohol Testing she was responsible for all aspects of the Arkansas state forensic alcohol test program including: the evaluation of testing methodologies, equipment, and products for regulatory approval; the performance and supervision of procedures for analysis of bodily fluid samples for alcohol content; the supervision of the evidential breath test instrument maintenance program; the collection and evaluation of electronic data; the supervision of laboratory personnel to assure compliance with regulations; the development, implementation and application of chemical testing training curriculum for law enforcement officers; and testimony as an expert witness in

criminal trials, civil litigation, and as a resource witness for the Arkansas State Legislature. Her reputation for excellence and integrity throughout the legal and law enforcement communities as well as Arkansas state government is unsurpassed. These qualities along with her objective service to the citizens of Arkansas persuaded the director of the Health Department in 2001 to appoint Shirley to her current post as Leader of the Laboratory Services Unit. This position includes command of all the State Health Laboratories as well as the Office of Alcohol Testing.

Over Shirley's lengthy career she has made many important and significant contributions. The following merely exemplify such.

She is a charter member of the International Association for Chemical Testing and was elected Vice President on its first slate of officers in 1988. She went on to serve as President from 1990-92, Treasurer from 1994-96 and Secretary 2000-02. She currently serves on the Board of Directors and Publications committee. She is the only IACT member to serve in every elected office as well as the Board of Directors. Maybe we

should rename ourselves to the Ezelle International Association for Chemical Testing.

Shirley has tirelessly promoted IACT and contributed greatly to its growth and character. She always encourages new people to become involved in the organization and her passion for preserving IACT's history has made her known as the group's unofficial historian.

Her presentations at IACT conferences are too numerous to completely list in this presentation but they varied in topics from scientific papers to surveys of state programs. Regardless of the presentation ~~or the presentation~~ rest assured each one of them contained her unique style of wit and humor coupled with pertinent information for the conference attendees. I know of no other person that has devoted more time and effort to further the goals and purposes of IACT than Shirley Ezelle.

Shirley is also a dedicated and productive member of the National Safety Council's Committee of Alcohol and Other

Drugs where she has served as a an Executive Board member, as Vice Chair, and as of this February currently serves as the Chair of the committee, only the second woman to do so in the 68 year history of the Committee.

She has also served on numerous committees dealing with administrative rule and policy formulations by the United States Department of Transportation and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration with respect to alcohol and drug testing in the workplace.

During her entire career, Shirley has been a teacher, instructor, and mentor to thousands of students and professionals. Beginning with public education teaching in the secondary schools, as a law enforcement instructor, as a faculty member for the Administrative Office of Courts, as an instructor for the Arkansas DWI Education / Youthful Offenders Training Programs, to scores of Arkansas Department of Health employees and administrators she has been a constant source of guidance, knowledge, and mentoring. On a personal note, I have relied upon her skills as a teacher and mentor

throughout my term as President of IACT since few if any have her historical perspective of this organization.

Among the many accolades Shirley has received throughout her career, several are especially noteworthy.

On two separate occasions, in September 1983 and again in April 1988, Shirley was recognized by the Director of the Arkansas Department of Health Employee of the month.

In 1990, Shirley's work and dedication to the people of Arkansas was recognized when she was named Outstanding State Employee for 1990.

In February of this year, she was presented the MADD Blue Knight Community Service Award by Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee and State Police Director Don Melton.

Shirley says she enjoys relaxing by gardening and fishing and playing with her dogs. You saw her current pack in the photos during the

reception: a black and white shih-tzu (pronounced “she zoo”) named Basil and a dappled miniature dachshund named Hattie. With a 35 year career to look back on, what is it that keeps her going strong? Why is she always willing to take on something else? Believe me she is always willing to take on another task. She says that her strength and determination is attributed to an event in her life which occurred on August 13, 1986: when she became a Christian.

Ladies and Gentlemen, fellow IACT members and guests, it is my distinct honor and great pleasure to present to you IACT’s Kurt M. Dubowski Award winner. Shirley Ezelle.