

COLLEGES

Chemist mixed sports, studies

Academic All-American Hall to honor Nobel winner

By Willie T. Smith III
USA TODAY

Sherwood Rowland always has had higher pursuits, from leaping over competitors on the basketball court during the *eight years* he was in college sports to setting his sights on the world's ozone layer.

The chemist, one of the world's top environmental experts, won the Nobel Prize for research that discovered chlorofluorocarbon gases weaken the ozone layer.

His achievements in science and sports have led to an honorary induction into the GTE Academic All-American Hall of Fame.

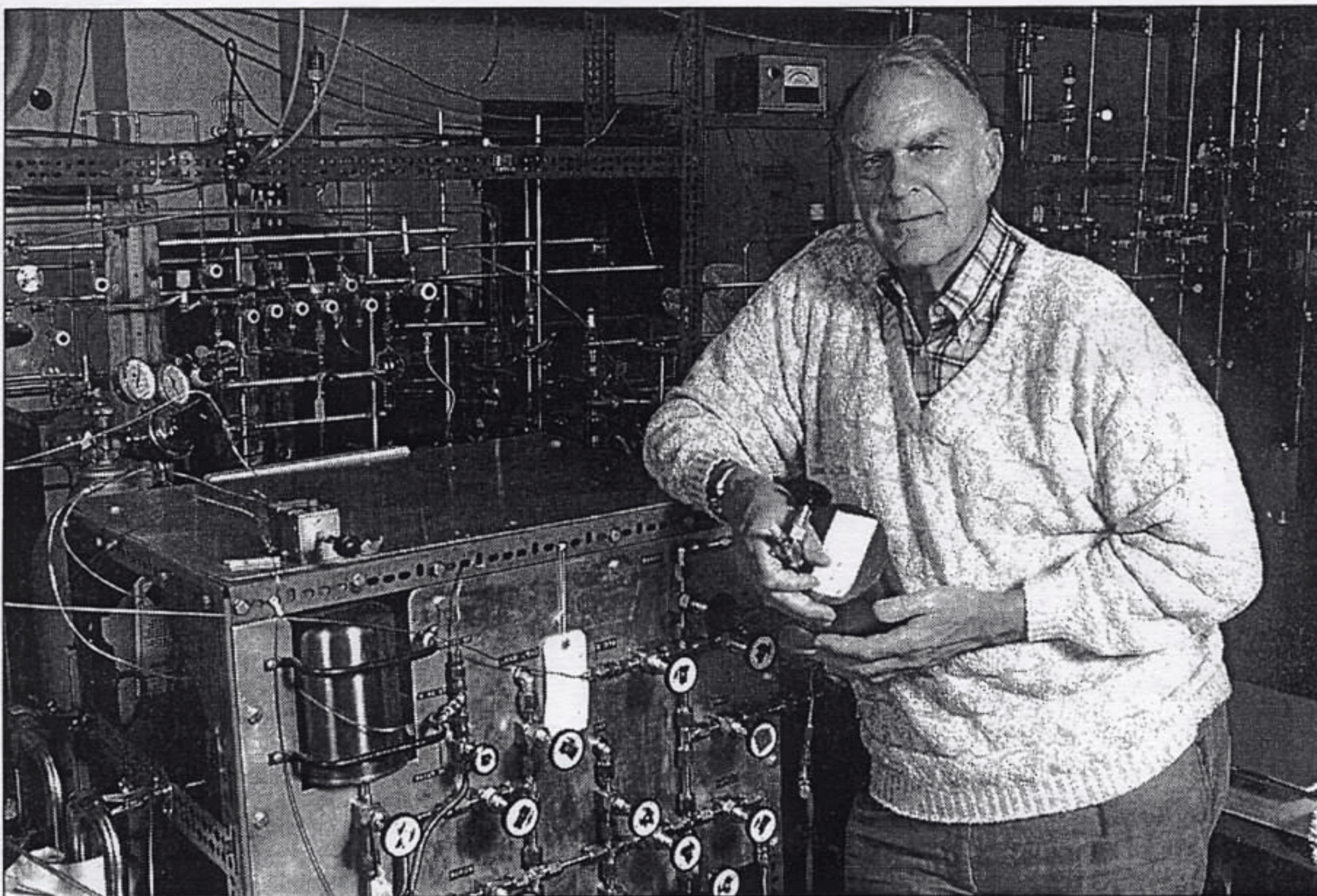
Rowland joins Danny Ainge, Oliver Luck, Pablo Morales and Regina Cavanaugh Murphy in the Class of 2000, which will be honored May 1 in Boston.

Rowland played basketball for three years and baseball for one season at Ohio Wesleyan. He was the basketball team's leading rebounder and third-leading scorer as a senior, averaging 10 points.

He graduated in 1948 with a 3.94 grade-point average.

The competing, however, did not end with a bachelor's degree and four years in sports.

He headed to the University of Chicago, where he played basketball one more year and baseball for three. He batted .340 as a first baseman. Along the way, he picked up a master's in



Honors keep coming: Sherwood Rowland, who will be inducted into the GTE Academic All-American Hall of Fame, is a Nobel Prize-winning chemist who played basketball and baseball at two colleges.

1951 and a doctorate in chemistry in 1952.

"Chicago had an unusual program for undergraduates," Rowland says. "Most entered following their sophomore year in high school and were enrolled in 16 very rigid, year-long courses. Many then went on to graduate school there."

Because they were so young, graduate students were allowed to participate in a sport until earning four letters in it. That was all Rowland needed to resume competition.

He also played baseball semi-professionally in Oshawa, Ontario, for two summers.

He is the first Nobel Prize winner in the GTE Academic Hall of Fame.

Rowland was a professor at Princeton University and the University of Kansas before he joined the staff at California-Irvine as the founding chairman of its chemistry department, one of his proudest accomplishments.

"In 1960 the University of California had the reputation as one of the greatest public institutions in the world,"

Rowland says. "To play a part in forming a new campus was an exciting idea, one that doesn't come along too often."

He remains a professor at UC-Irvine, although half his time is spent traveling the world in his position as foreign secretary of the National Academy of Science.

Rowland is an honorary inductee because the Academic All-American team did not begin until 1952.