

Howard Tracy Hall

James E. Talmage Scientific Achievement Award

Written in 1965 by President Ben E. Lewis, Executive vice-president of BYU, 1969–1979

In modern day society the diamond has become not only a symbol for uniting two hearts as one, but it plays a most significant role in the great industrial development of our age. We honor tonight a man whose name is closely tied to diamonds, Howard Tracy Hall, for it is he who opened one of the secret doors of the universe and on December 16, 1954, at the age of 35, became the first man to make diamonds. Scientists had been trying to accomplish this feat since 1790, but it remained for Tracy Hall to achieve the break through.

But this marked only the beginning of his remarkable achievements, for his subsequent scientific research in the field of high pressures and temperatures has led far beyond the synthesis of diamonds into important developments in material science, geology, solid-state physics, chemical synthesis, and engineering.

A Ph.D. in physical chemistry, he has held important assignments with a number of different organizations and companies. He came to Brigham Young University in 1956 as professor of chemistry and director of research, and while here has distinguished himself as a researcher, administrator, and teacher, and it was in recognition of his abilities in these areas that he was chosen to deliver the First Annual Faculty Lecture at the University in 1964.

His accomplishments, the positions he has held, and the honors he has received are outlined in greater detail in the printed program. In honoring him we would recognize his wife, Ida Rose, who has been at his side as a major support and inspiration. They have combined forces to produce diamonds in the form of seven fine children.

We salute you, Dr. Tracy Hall, as an outstanding scientist, teacher, father, and believer in Christ, and we take pleasure in acknowledging you as this year's recipient of the James E. Talmage Scientific Achievement Award.