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UM PROFESSOR TO SPEAK ON HAROLD UREY AT ACS CONFERENCE

MISSOULA--

Richard J. Field, associate professor of chemistry at the University of Montana, will present a paper on UM alumnus and Nobel laureate Harold Clayton Urey at the 183rd national meeting of the American Chemical Society in Las Vegas March 29-April 2. Urey, who died in 1981, was awarded the Nobel prize in chemistry in 1934 for his work on atomic structure and isotopes including the discovery of deuterium. He received a B.S degree in chemistry and zoology from the UM in 1917 and was a member of the UM faculty from 1919 to 1921.

After working on the Manhattan Project to develop atomic weapons during World War II, Urey shifted his interest to geochemistry and cosmochemistry. "His 1952 book, 'The Planets: Their Origin and Development,' has been acclaimed by many geochemists as the single most important contribution setting the intellectual stage for the scientific exploration of the moon and planets," Field said. "His fundamental contributions to chemistry ranged all the way from the nucleus of the hydrogen atom to the nature of the solar system."

The ACS meeting is one of the largest scientific conferences in the country. Approximately 2,800 papers will be presented and more than 10,000 scientists are expected to attend.

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