



*The 2008 Herty Medalist*

**Dr. Gregory H. Robinson, University of Georgia**

The Georgia Section of the ACS proudly awards the Charles Holmes Herty Medal to Professor Gregory H. Robinson, and recognizes his work and service contributions to the Southeast since his first academic appointment at Clemson University in 1985. Dr. Robinson has made seminal contributions to the areas of main group and transition metal chemistry that have forced chemists to reconsider traditional theories of molecular structure and bonding.

He has also mentored countless students in the southeast, particularly under-represented minority students, and has served the nation through his multiple advisory roles at the NSF, the Ford Foundation and the ACS.

Professor Robinson obtained his B.S. in Chemistry (1980) from Jacksonville State University (Alabama) where he was also a member the Gamecock football team (earning All-Conference and the Gulf South Conference Defensive Player of the Year Awards in 1979). He proceeded from there to graduate school at the University of Alabama where he studied the organometallic chemistry of aluminum under the guidance of Professor Jerry L. Atwood. Upon receiving his Ph.D. in Chemistry (1984), he joined the faculty of Clemson University (South Carolina) and developed a productive research program emphasizing the organometallic chemistry of the group 13 elements. In 1994, Professor Robinson was awarded an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship and studied in the laboratory of Prof. Dr. Herbert Schumann at the Technical University of Berlin (Germany). Professor Robinson joined the faculty at The University of Georgia in 1995 and is now the Franklin Professor of Chemistry.

Professor Robinson's research may be described as both provocative and innovative. Highlights include the experimental realization of the concept of metalloaromaticity—that a metallic ring system can exhibit traditional aromatic behavior—with a class of gallium compounds referred to as cyclogallenes (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1995**, 117, 7578). Professor Robinson also reported the first example of a compound possessing a gallium-gallium triple bond—a compound that has fascinated computational and synthetic chemists for more than a decade (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **1997**, 119, 5471). Recent highlights include the report of a metallocene-complexed dibismuthene (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2005**, 127, 7672), synthesis of a neutral compound containing a boron-boron double bond—the first “diborene” (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 127, 12412), and the preparation of a neutral gallium analog of the tropylium ion—the first “gallepin” (*J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2007**, 127, 13380).