Name in English: James Wei
Name in Chinese: 韦潜光［韋潛光］
Name in Pinyin: Wéi Qiánguāng
Gender: Male
Birth Year: 1930
Birth Place: China
Philanthropy:

Profession (s): Chemical engineer, Professor

Education: B.S., Chemical Engineering, 1952, Georgia Institute of Technology; M.S., Chemical Engineering, 1954, MIT; Sc.D., Chemical Engineering, 1955, MIT; M.B.A., Advanced Management, 1969, Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration

Award(s): 1977 Sherman M. Fairchild Distinguished Scholar; 1977-1997 Warren K. Lewis Professor at MIT; 1991- Pomeroy and Betty Perry Smith Professor at Princeton University; Award in Petroleum Chemistry from the American Chemical Society, 1966; Professional Progress Award from American Institute of Chemical Engineers, 1970; Member of the National Academy of Engineering, 1978; William H. Walker Award of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, 1980; Member of American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 1982; Member of Academia Sinica, 1982; designated one of thirty "Eminent Chemical Engineers," at the AIChE Diamond Jubilee Meeting, 1983; Founders Award of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers for contributions to the profession, 1990; Distinguished Science and Technology Award at the Asian American of the Year banquet, 2007.

Contribution(s): As a professor since 1962, Dr. James Wei has taught thousands of chemical engineering students at MIT, Caltech, the University of Delaware, and Princeton University. He began his career as a Research Chemical Engineer at Mobil Oil Research in 1955 researching more efficient ways to refine oil. In 1969, he was made Manager of Long-Range Analysis at Mobil. At the same time, he was Visiting Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering at Princeton University (1962-1963) and the California Institute of Technology (1965). He was Professor of Chemical Enginering, University of Delaware from 1971 to 1971 then Department Chair of Chemical Engineering at MIT from 1977 to 1988. After a two year sabbatical he returned to academia as Dean of Engineering and Applied Science at Princeton University from 1991 to 2002.

Professor Wei has co-authored seven books. He was a member of the *Chemical Technology* Executive Board from 1971 to 1979. He served as Consulting Editor for the McGraw-Hill Book Series of Chemical Engineering from 1964 to 1992. He has been Editor-in-Chief of *Advances in Chemical Engineering* since 1982, a publication that informs a general audience about developments in the field of chemical engineering. In 1988, he was president of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers. He is a current trustee of Smith College and the American University of Beirut. He has been elected into the National Academy of Engineering, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Academia Sinica.

He has published over one hundred papers on the topics of chemical kinetics, catalysis, reaction engineering, and cancer chemotherapy. His research into catalysis and zeolites

makes him a particular expert in the impact of chemicals on the environment and environmental protection. Catalysis increases the rate of a chemical reaction and thereby increases the efficiency of an industrial process with less pollution. Zeolites are minerals that have the possibility of separating different types of gases, with applications in removing industrial pollutants from the atmosphere.

External Links:

http://chemeng.princeton.edu/people/wei.shtml
http://web.princeton.edu/sites/PEI/pdf/facultybios/wei.pdf
http://www.princeton.edu/che/people/faculty/wei/