



SRJC Alumni & Friends

As a nineteen year old student earning \$1.14 per hour as a student assistant in the Santa Rosa Junior college chemistry stockroom in the early 1970s, Dr. John Cuppoletti struggled to make ends meet and stay in school. SRJC classes had ignited a passion for chemistry in the young student and Dr. Cuppoletti was focused on completing his classes to transfer to University of California at Davis.



The chair of the SRJC chemistry department at the time was Mr. Courtney Anderson. Mr. Anderson played an instrumental role in building Dr. Cuppoletti's chemistry interest, as well as ensuring Dr. Cuppoletti was prepared for his undergraduate work. "I had a great foundation at SRJC," said Dr. Cuppoletti. "The instructors, especially Mr. Anderson, were outstanding teachers and mentors and made it possible for me to be successful."

A focused scholar, Dr. Cuppoletti published his first research paper as a junior at UC Davis and was the first in his family to obtain a college degree. Unsure of which career path to pursue after graduation, on the advice of his UC Davis professors, Dr. Cuppoletti applied for graduate school to study biochemistry. He published four research papers before completing his Ph.D. and submitted a 279 page thesis.

After his postdoctoral studies and a brief stint in the corporate world, Dr. Cuppoletti spent four years as an assistant professor at UCLA before moving to the University of Cincinnati. As a prolific researcher, Dr. Cuppoletti secured over \$20 million in research grants during his career at the University of Cincinnati, where he conducted research in molecular and cellular physiology. He has published countless research papers and secured over ten patents, including one for a device that can detect anthrax and another that is used in a prescription drug.

Dr. Cuppoletti's research work alone would be enough for a remarkable legacy at the University of Cincinnati, but the scientist has also become a philanthropist and service leader over the years. Because of his childhood fascination with fire trucks, Dr. Cuppoletti served as a volunteer firefighter for his local community for fifteen years. In 2011, Dr. Cuppoletti received the Faculty Award for Exemplary Contributions in Service to the University of Cincinnati.

His dedication to service and leadership led him to positions including chair of the Faculty Senate, member of the University Standing Committee on Conflict of Interest, chair of the Ohio Faculty Council and president of the Ohio Conference of the American Association of University Professors.

Dr. Cuppoletti worked with the University to establish the Faculty Staff Giving Campaign and received the 2006 Trustees Award for Exemplary Service to the University of Cincinnati from

the UC Foundation. His work on the Faculty Staff Giving provided his fellow employees the opportunity to determine where their gifts would be allocated. Dr. Cuppoletti and fellow scientist, professor and wife, Dr. Danuta H. Malinowska, also support the University of Cincinnati's Gen-1 Theme House, a living and learning community for first-generation college students.

Recently, over 140 former students attended retirement party to honor his passion for teaching and to celebrate the legacy of a man who has given so much to the University, community and scientific field.

Today, as a professor emeritus at the University of Cincinnati and semi-retired, Dr. Cuppoletti still works in his lab and is expanding his philanthropic interests to SRJC. The recently established SRJC Cuppoletti Malinowska Chemistry Scholarship supports chemistry majors and the Cuppoletti Malinowska Chemistry Program Award supports education opportunities and development for chemistry majors of SRJC.