



Association of the  
Chemical Profession  
of Alberta

In Memory of Arthur Bollo-Kamara, Ph.D., P.Chem.  
November 22, 1950 to October 27, 2002

The Association of the Chemical Profession of Alberta (ACPA) is deeply saddened by the loss due to cancer of one of its founding members, Dr. Arthur Bollo-Kamara. Arthur (or “Bollo”, as he liked to be called) was instrumental in moving the Association toward its present status as a full-fledged professional association and in obtaining recognition for professional chemists in Alberta. He was concerned about the status of chemists in this province before most of us were even aware of the problem. When the ACPA began to get organized in 1991, Arthur put together the application for registration as a profession. He was persistent, and he continued his efforts until the ACPA was finally successful in December of 2001.

In addition to being a Past President of the ACPA, he was also a Past President of the Western Environmental Agricultural Laboratory Association (WEALA); a member of the Board of Directors and an Assessor of Laboratory Quality Systems for the Canadian Association for Environmental Analytical Laboratories (CAEAL); a member of the Advisory Board for the Chemical Technologies program at NAIT; a member of the Advisory Board for the Environmental Monitoring and Compliance program at Lakeland College; a Technical Assessor for the Standards Council of Canada; a Past Chairman of the Legal Custody for Code of Practice for the Environmental Services Association of Alberta (ESAA); and a Lead Auditor for the National Quality Institute. All of these groups are indebted to Bollo.

The list above may sound dry, but Arthur always brought his delightful personality to his professional life—no meeting with Bollo in attendance could ever be described as boring! Nonetheless, he worked hard to improve the image

and to raise the profile of all chemists in Alberta, and he truly exemplified the word “professional” in all his activities.

Bollo made many friends in the scientific community in Alberta, beginning in the 1970s as a graduate student at the University of Alberta and continuing through his work at Alberta Agriculture, SAIT, and Alberta Environment. However, many of his scientific friends and colleagues were unaware of the other side of Bollo.

Arthur brought with him from his native Sierra Leone a love of West African drums, and over the past ten years he had become widely known as an innovative and gifted musician, as well as a music educator. In 1992, he founded the Wajjo Drummers. They held annual concerts, recorded two CDs and, in 1999, filled the Winspear Theatre with both authentic West African music and highly successful cross-cultural experiments—including a wonderful mix of African drums and Scottish bagpipes. He also performed and recorded a CD with Juba, an Edmonton-based world music group. He was a Board member for the Edmonton Folk Festival and the President of the Society of Canadians of West African Origin (SCWAO).

His many accomplishments in musical arts and culture led to various public tributes to Arthur following his passing, including items on CBC radio, on CKUA radio, and in the Edmonton Journal. At Bollo’s wake, many more tributes were presented: story-telling, singing, chanting, African drumming and dancing, Irish dancing and accordion playing, Caribbean steel drum playing, Scottish piping, and a grand finale singalong of “When the Saints Go Marching In”. It was a wholehearted celebration of the personal, cultural and musical side of his life.

As an ongoing tribute to his work on behalf of chemists in this province, the ACPA has established the Arthur Bollo-Kamara Scholarship. It will be awarded annually to a deserving student who is registered in a chemistry program at a university in the province of Alberta.

Arthur is survived by his wife, Althea; his three sons, Obai, Daniel and Brin; and his brother Dr. Nicholas Bollo-Kamara and family. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

—Stan Backs, MCIC, P.Chem.