

Personal Web sites: umich: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~lpt/index.htm>

Scuba Diving: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~lpt/Divegeek/home.htm>

"Harris" Links: <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~lpt/links.htm>



My background-As a chemist: I started my chemical career when I was in high school by taking a freshman chemistry class at the local community college. After my BS in chemistry (Minor: Mathematics; student director of university observatory) from Washington State University, I picked up a MS in organic chemistry at Wayne State University (Minor: Physical Chemistry; lead instructor for tutoring minorities for med school exams). Then, while managing a peptide synthesis lab for investigating brain function, I acquired a Ph.D. in biochemistry (Minor: Organic Chemistry; faculty advisor for student science fiction club) from the Wayne State School of Medicine. My post-doc was at the University of Michigan, where I remained as the resident chemist and molecular modeler for 22 years at the Molecular and Behavioral Neuroscience Institute of the University of Michigan School of Medicine. This research group is recognized as one of the world leaders in research focused on the brain chemistry of pain, learning & memory, and addiction. While there, I completed the Birbeck College (U of London, UK) Advanced Certification in Protein Structure. I have been involved with chemical research (in one form or another) for more than 4 decades.

As a diving instructor: My diving nick-name, "river-rat," reflects my passion for scuba diving in extremely swift water. I hold more than 100 dive specialty certifications. I have been involved in scuba education for more than four decades, as an instructor, lecturer, author, and former contributing editor for Sources, the International Journal of Underwater Education. My more than 200 diving articles have been featured in numerous journals and web sites. Selected articles have been translated into French, Russian, and Spanish. My articles have earned numerous national and international awards for excellence. I wrote the dive physics chapter for NAUI's Advanced Diving Techniques, Gilliam's Mixed Gas Diving, and Bove's Hyperbaric Medicine text book. I assisted the US Navy (at their request) in development of equipment and course materials for the first all-service swift water underwater salvage program. I have been designated by the President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports as a National Master Instructor. I was a sysop and "prime contributor" to the pre-internet GENIE Scuba Diving Bulletin Board. I currently act as the Diving Safety Officer (sanctioned by the American Academy of Underwater Sciences) for the University of Michigan. I have trained more than 1000 people in scuba diving and oxygen administration first aid. My award winning scuba diving education site, Diving Myths and Realities, has had more than 1.2 million visitors. Finally, I am a fully certified Underwater Basket Weaver.

As a WCC Student: While a part-time faculty member, I was allowed one free class a semester for WCC classes. I completed more than 90 hours (4.00 gpa) with WCC certificates in Foundations of Information Science, Computer Technology, and Windows Networking. I have completed enough WCC geology classes to be the equivalent of a college geology minor. Finally, I have taken more than 2100 courses via the WCC LinkedIn Professional Development site.

Non-Academic Training: I have completed Certifications/ Diplomas from Beckman Instruments (Infrared Spectroscopy), Waters Assoc (High Performance Liquid Chromatography), Tripos (Basic and Advanced Molecular Modeling), Scripps Institute (Advanced Peptide Synthesis), Applied Biosystems (Automated Peptide Synthesis), Society of Neuroscience (3 courses on Brain Peptides), Dale Carnegie (Effective Communication), the DeVry Institute of Technology (Entertainment Electronics), NOAA (Severe Weather Spotter), Ypsilanti Bar (Public Law School), and the Washtenaw County Sheriff (Public Police Academy).

The Great Courses: I have completed more than 290 of their DVD-based college level courses.

Hobbies: collecting software (over 20,000 executables on my primary box) for a home computing network (21 machines ... a contributor since 1999 to the SETI@home project (Now BOINC) that analyzes radio astronomy data ... consistently in the top 0.20 % of world-wide contributors), digital photography, amateur astronomy, and cycling. I maintain a fairly extensive personal book and DVD library.

I am a recipient of multiple WCC Bravo (student recognition for excellence) awards.

