



THE LONG ISLAND SUBSECTION
OF
THE NEW YORK AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

Proudly presents

Dr. Paris Svoronos,
Professor of Chemistry
Queensborough Community College of CUNY

Title of Talk: "Otto Diels- An apolitical chemist, a grand teacher and the 1950 Nobel Prize winner: Celebrating his 145th Year Birth Anniversary"

Synopsis: Otto Paul Hermann Diels (1876-1954) was born in Hamburg, studied chemistry at the University of Berlin and earned his doctorate under Emil Fischer (1899). His first academic position was at his alma mater where he eventually became a professor and the chair of its department. He eventually moved to the University of Kiel (1916) where he became the director of its Institute of Chemistry until his final retirement (1948). His research first dealt with the identification of carbon suboxide (C_3O_2) and continued with the skeletal structural treatment of steroids using metallic selenium as the dehydrogenating agent. His most famous student was Kurt Alder (1902-1958) with whom he discovered the cyclization of a conjugated diene-alkene (dienophile) mixture at basically room temperature, a reaction named after them. Its most significant application was the polymerization of isoprene to synthetic rubber whose extensive manufacture development took off in the middle 1950s. Diels and Alder were awarded the joined Nobel prize in 1950- the most significant mentor-student award. Diels' life and chemical work are not highlighted as extensively outside the German scientific world. An effort to highlight his private life and work that spanned over two World Wars will be attempted.

All are welcome!

When: Thursday, March 4, 2021

Where: Zoom

Time: 6:00 pm – Seminar Start

Link: <https://stonybrook.zoom.us/j/98215087847?pwd=dG0yRTRJNk15Um1GdHpWUmY5T3cwZz09>
Meeting ID: 982 1508 7847 Passcode: 505683

