



2008 IOTA SIGMA PI HONORARY MEMBER AWARD

Dr. Patricia A. Thiel, Iowa State University

Dr. Patricia A. Thiel is the **2008 recipient of the Iota Sigma Pi Honorary Member Award**. This is the highest honor that Iota Sigma Pi bestows on outstanding women chemists.

Dr. Thiel is a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Iowa State University, where she is active in research, teaching, and administration. In research, she is known for her work in three main areas: nanostructure evolution on surfaces; surface properties and structures of quasicrystals (a complex type of metallic alloy); and the chemistry of water adsorbed on metal surfaces. Dr. Thiel is an enthusiastic teacher of physical chemistry. She has held several administrative posts at ISU, including Chair of her Department, and in each of them she has been the first woman to hold that post. She received her B.A. in Chemistry at Macalester College, and her Ph.D. in chemistry at the California Institute of Technology in 1981. After postdoctoral work at the University of Munich as a von Humboldt Fellow, she joined the technical staff at Sandia National Laboratories, Livermore, then moved to Iowa State University in 1983. In her early academic career there, Dr. Thiel was recognized with awards from the Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation and the A. P. Sloan Foundation, and by an NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award. Later, she was elected a Fellow of the AVS, the APS, and the Institute of Physics. She has been an Invitation Fellow of the Japanese Society for the Promotion

of Science, has received an Honorary Degree from the Institut National Polytechnic de Lorraine in France, and has received a DOE Award for Outstanding Scientific Accomplishment in Materials Chemistry. She has served on numerous boards and committees for major organizations, including NSF, DOE, ACS-PRF, and NIH, and has been a member of editorial advisory boards for 10 journals. She has organized conferences and symposia within the frameworks of the MRS, APS, ACS, AVS, and GRC organizations. She has authored or co-authored about 250 publications, and has co-edited 4 books. She is the proud mother of two teenage daughters, and the proud partner of a mathematical physicist.