



## Merton C. Flemings

Merton C. Flemings was born on Sept. 20, 1929 in Syracuse, New York. He first became intrigued with science in high school, inspired by a physics teacher. His research has focused, for more than 50 years, on ways to produce, recycle, and improve products through understanding and applying engineering science to the processing of materials.

Flemings received his SB degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the Department of Metallurgy in 1951, followed by his SM and ScD degrees in Metallurgy in 1952 and 1954. After working in industry for two years he joined MIT as an assistant professor in 1956 and has spent the remainder of his career as faculty member there. He established MIT's Materials Processing Center in 1980, where he served as director until 1982. That year, he was appointed Head of the Materials Science and Engineering Department, a position he held for 12 years. He was MIT Director of the Singapore-MIT Alliance from 1999 to 2001, and Faculty Director of the Lemelson-MIT Program in invention and innovation at MIT from 2001 to 2009. He remains on the MIT faculty as Toyota Professor Emeritus.

Flemings is a member of the National Academy of Engineering, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and is author or co-author of over 350 papers, 31 patents, and two books in the fields of solidification science and engineering, foundry technology, and materials processing. He has worked closely with industry and industrial problems throughout his professional career. Of the awards he has received over the years, those he cherishes most are related to teaching.

Outdoor activities, primarily mountain hiking have been a lifelong passion for Flemings, a passion he continues to enjoy with family and friends, although these days mostly on more moderate terrain. He and his wife of 44 years, Elizabeth ten Grotenhuis, now devote themselves to K-8 education and to family including four children and seven grandchildren.