Ahmed Zewail



Zewail was an Egyptian-American physical chemist born in Damanhur, Egypt in 1946. Zewail was fascinated by physics and chemistry in grade school and was fortunately appointed to study physical science as a career. Zewail attended the University of Alexandria, University of Pennsylvania, and UC-Berkeley. At Berkeley and during a post-doc at Caltech, Zewail developed femtochemistry. He also helped improve TEM resolution by 10 orders of magnitude and became the first Science Envoy to the Middle East. He was awarded the Nobel Prize and other honors for his work.

"I don't know all the reasons for these achievements, but I know that I love what I do and I have never wanted to rest on my laurels."

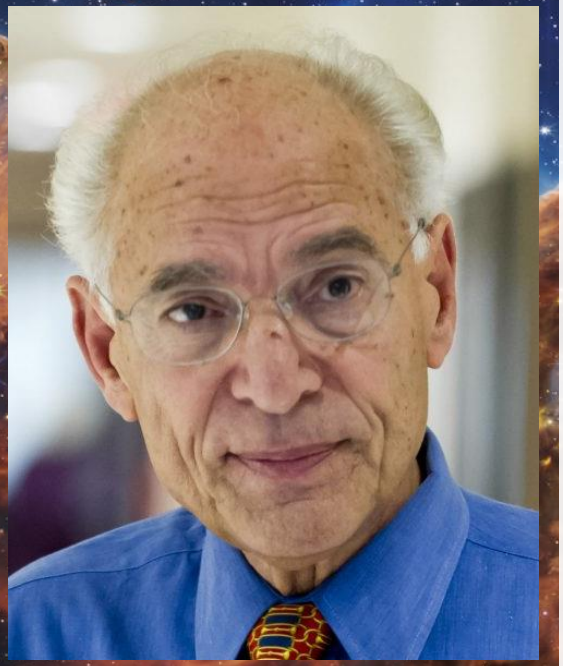
Rana el Kaliouby



Rana el Kaliouby was born in Cairo, Egypt in 1978. She obtained her B.S. and Masters at American University in Cairo and her Ph.D. at Cambridge. As a child, her ambition towards science was considered abnormal; however, her family supported efforts and her mother served as a role model. She worked as a research scientist at MIT until co-founding Affectiva. Her work has focused on integrating human emotions with AI response in technology. el Kaliouby focuses on using emotional AI to improve automobile safety, emotion interpretation for autistic or visually impaired individuals, and enable more human interactions through technology. She has been listed as Forbes top 50 women, MIT's innovators under 35, BBC 100 women in 2019.

"I've found that having role models and mentors who I resonate with is so important – a lot of people have so many questions and . . . may not have someone who can relate enough to even answer in the first place."

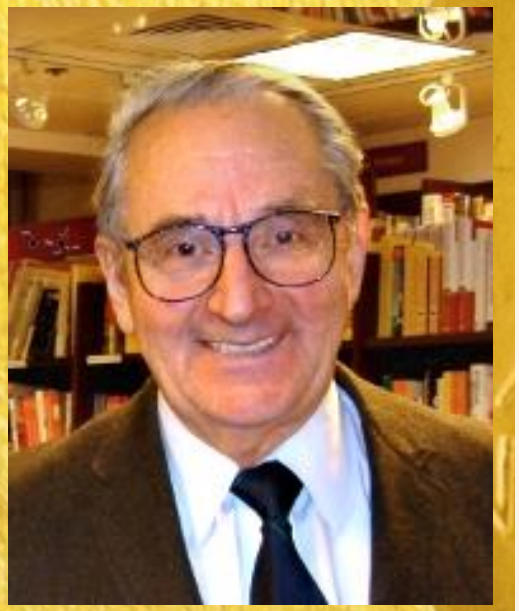
Farouk El-Baz



Dr. Farouk El-Baz is an Egyptian-American space scientist and geologist. He earned his B.Sc. in chemistry and geology at Ain Shams University in Cairo (1958) and further earned his Ph.D. in geology at the University of Missouri at Rolla (1964). In 1967, El-Baz began work at NASA, where he played the primary role in determining the ideal Moon landing site for the Apollo 11 mission. Much later in his career, he joined Boston University to research the geology of Earth (1986). El-Baz used satellite images to understand the origins of deserts and as a result, uncovered many sand-buried rivers and streams in the Sahara. This analysis was used to identify the location of groundwater in the deserts of Egypt, Oman, the UAE, and Sudan. His numerous honors include being a Senior Advisor to Egypt's former president Hosni Mubarak and being elected a member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering in Washington, DC (2002).

"Competition in itself encourages creativity and creativity is the basis of knowledge"

Elias James Corey



Prof. Elias James Corey is an American organic chemist. Born to Lebanese immigrant parents, Corey credits his ability to cope with adversity to his family escaping a "tragically torn country". Upon moving to the United States, his family also struggled through the Great Depression and World War II. At the age of 16, Corey began studying at MIT, where he earned bachelor's degree in 1948 and a Ph.D. under Prof. John C. Sheehan in 1951. Soon after, he joined UIUC and became a full professor in 1956 (at the age of 27). Since 1959, he has been a professor at Harvard University studied organic chemistry. Over his career, he developed numerous reagents, such as PCC and TBS, and reaction pathways. Corey also developed the methodology of retrosynthesis, for which he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1990). For all his contributions to organic chemistry, he was awarded the National Medal of Science (1988) and ACS's greatest honor, the Priestley Medal (2004).

"To the field of synthetic chemistry belongs an array of responsibilities which are crucial for the future of mankind, not only with regard to the health and needs of our society, but also for the attainment of a deep understanding of matter, chemical change, and life."