

Lou Brus has a BA from Rice University (1965) and a PhD from Columbia University (1969, advisor Richard Bersohn), both in Chemical Physics. He attended Rice as a NROTC scholarship student and was commissioned into the regular US Navy in 1965. As a Lieutenant he worked in the solid state and chemistry divisions of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington DC (1969-1973). He then joined the research area of Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ, where he became Distinguished Member of Technical Staff. He returned to Columbia in 1996, where he is now Samuel Latham Mitchill Professor of Chemistry. He is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, and in 1998 was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Gordon Conferences. He was originally trained in molecular spectroscopy and kinetics. In the 1980s he explored basic ideas and methods for colloidal semiconductor nanocrystals (Qdots) that exhibit quantum size effects. His present interests include carbon nanotubes and graphene, chemical applications of local electromagnetic fields, and strong electron correlation. He has received the APS Langmuir Prize, the OSA Wood Prize, the Kavli Prize in Nanoscience, and the ACS Peter Debye Award. He regularly teaches introductory chemistry at Columbia.