

Kenneth E. Schriver
1984 Harold Zeh Award Recipient



Ken Schriver grew up in Tigard, Oregon and attended Reed College from 1981 – 1985. He wrote his senior thesis at Reed in biochemistry under the guidance of Ron McClard. After graduating Phi Beta Kappa and with the support of a Beinecke Scholarship, he studied physical chemistry at UCLA, working with Rob Whetten. He received his Ph.D. in 1990, then returned to the Pacific Northwest as Vice President for Lion Industries, a small specialty chemical company in Vancouver Washington that manufactured process chemicals for paper recycling.

In 1997, he became Technical Director for Vinings Industries in Atlanta, Georgia following that firm's acquisition of Lion. At Vinings he had overall responsibility for research, product development, technical service, and analytical laboratory functions. He supported sales and marketing efforts both domestically and internationally, working with customers in the paper, mining, and water treatment industries throughout North America and Asia. He was a key technical adviser in multiple mergers and acquisitions, including the eventual acquisition of Vinings by Kemira OY (Finland).

In 2001, he moved to Vanderbilt University in Nashville Tennessee as a Research Assistant Professor of Physics, where he worked with Richard Haglund exploring laser-materials interactions using the Mark III free-electron laser. He also worked with Richard Caprioli in designing high spatial resolution matrix-assisted laser desorption and ionization (MALDI) imaging mass spectrometers. In 2005 he added the title of Senior Lecturer and took on various teaching assignments in both the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

In 2012, he left Vanderbilt to work with another start-up company, AppliFlex LLC, focused on commercializing a method using mid-infrared lasers to deposit thin films of organic molecules. That venture closed shop in 2014 and he retired to focus on his health. He moved back to the Pacific Northwest in 2016 after his wife Anna, a neuroscientist, took a position at OHSU. They now split their time between homes in Portland, Oregon and Hangzhou, China.