



## **Prof. Lawrence J Berliner**

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## **Alfred Nobel and the History of the Nobel Prize**

Alfred Nobel was a genius and a keen practitioner of many fields, including chemistry, physics, physiology/medicine and literature, which comprises four of the prestigious Nobel Prizes, awarded each year since 1901. There is also a rich history of the chemical elements being a key part of the prize citation, starting as early as Marie Curie. This talk covers the history of Alfred Nobel and how he, his father and brothers developed their famous explosive that made the Nobel corporation and Alfred extremely wealthy and famous. However the interesting, sometimes sad, part of this history is how Alfred came about to propose the details of these prizes in his will. Prof. Berliner, who teaches a course on the Nobel Prize to entering freshman undergraduate students at the University of Denver, gives personal and sensitive insights into its mystique and fame. His lecture will bring in a local perspective of the contributions that Colorado scholars have made, resulting in several Nobel Laureates. Time permitting; speculation about the politics and potential mistakes made by the various Nobel committees over the years will be discussed.