

Terry and Helen - I hope this
will be helpful. Maybe
Helen can get it typed - Bill / for Perry & Helen
Send to Josh Lederberg

Edward L. Tatum.

Edward Lawrence Tatum was the
only person I have known to be granted
four degrees by the University of
Wisconsin - Madison: B.A., 1931; M.B., 1932
Ph.D. (Biochemistry, Bacteriology) 1934;
D.Sc. (Honorary) 1959. He was also the
first B.A. graduate ^{of Wisconsin} to win a
Nobel prize (medicine and physiology,
with Beadle and Lederberg) 1958.

Dr. Tatum worked ^{at Wisconsin} under direction
of E. B. Fred and the late W. H. Peterson
to identify ^{optical isomers of lactic acid} ^{of lactic acid}
produced by lactobacilli, and other
products of fermentation caused by
these bacteria. He found the work to be
uninspiring and too routine for
his likes, and as a result, became
one of the first laboratory "drop-outs".
His dress consisted of old khaki
trousers or shorts depending on the
season; tennis shoes or boots, again
dictated by the weather; and a T-shirt
or sweater. He would work in
shorts and the "tube sock" to the

tennis, swim, or go canoeing. His behavior in the laboratory was casual, and it upset both his major professors and his parents. This seemed to give him pleasure because he was, in fact, one of the first of the "free spirits" in days when they were rare indeed. But he got the job done, and went on to do postdoctoral work in Holland.

Later, working with George Beadle, and then with Joshua Lederberg, he found that which he truly wanted to do: pioneering studies in molecular genetics!