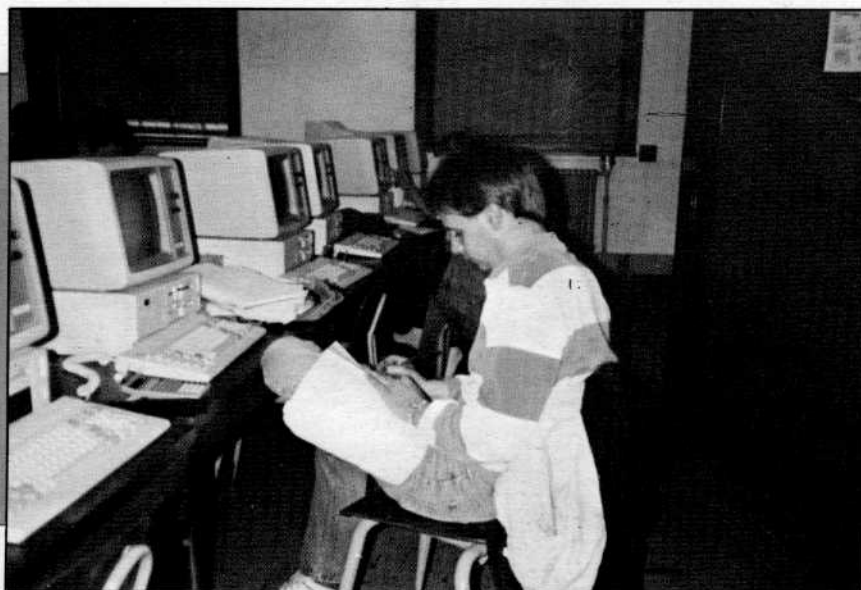


THE GOESSMANN GAZETTE

A publication of the Chemistry Department, University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Spring 1988



Chemistry Resource Center

In the last issue of this gazette the decision to create a new Resource Center in Goessmann Laboratory was announced. During the summer and fall of 1987 that plan was carried out and the Center has been in use by approximately 1500 beginning chemistry students and five classes of advanced students.

Two adjacent classrooms (151-152) were furnished with new tables and equipment and were open to all chemistry students 32 hours per week. Primary uses included: viewing of video tapes of pre-lab instructions, computer checking of one laboratory unknown, taking brief weekly quizzes on the Plato computer system (all the foregoing were required), viewing of video tapes of lectures, and drop-in tutoring. Other activities included use of word processing, graphing, plotting, simulation, and drill programs in both general and advanced chemistry.

The rooms have 45 Leading Edge microcomputers (30 of which are also connected to Plato on the Cyber main frame), 10 printers, 8 VCR/TV viewing stations, a check-in area, software storage area, tables for study and tutoring use, and an area for small group presentations. Also available is a video projector which can throw the image from either a CRT or a TV onto a large projection screen.

The usage level started out higher than expected and continued to grow during the semester. The early use seemed to be primarily short span (less than 30 minutes per student per session) but gradually shifted during the semester to a higher percentage of individual sessions longer than one hour. Since no required use was longer than 30 minutes, this means that more and more students found the other (non-required) uses to be helpful.

Little software was available during the first semester of a simulation nature or designed to offer drill in selected topics, and what was available was not advertised. During the second semester this type of software is being expanded and students encouraged to use it whenever it could be of help in a course. (Specific suggestions in this regard will be welcome.)

Because the microcomputers are fully functioned, students can and do use them for other types of activities as well—preparing written papers, writing programs in BASIC or other computer language, preparing graphs or spreadsheets, searching data bases, etc. Such uses are not necessarily related to a specific chemistry course, but are available to students enrolled in any chemistry course. □

If you have not yet seen the Center, we invite you to drop in during any M-T-W afternoon to sample what's available.

Alumni Help For the Department

THE GOESSMANN GAZETTE

A publication of the Chemistry Department
University of Massachusetts at Amherst

EDITOR

Everett E. Turner

DESIGNER

Kathy Morrissey-Morini

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Janet M. Hrynyshyn

EDITORIAL ADVISOR

Louis D. Quin, Head

The views expressed by contributing authors are not necessarily those of the Goessmann Gazette, the Department of Chemistry, or the University. The editor welcomes comments about this issue and suggestions for future issues.

The Goessmann Gazette is distributed annually to friends and alumni of the Department of Chemistry. For a free subscription, write to: Chemistry Department, Lederle GRC Tower A, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA 01003.

With the 1987 issue of the GOESSMANN GAZETTE, a program was announced whereby our Alumni could make contributions that would be of immediate benefit to activities in the Department. **The Chemistry Annual Fund** was established, and Alumni invited to make contributions to it. Many Alumni chose to do this, or to continue to send their contributions to the University Annual Fund but designate Chemistry as the recipient, and we were greatly encouraged by the net response. The stated goal was to establish each year a fund that could be used to provide graduate fellowships or to make significant improvements in our seminar program. **The fund for 1987 has exceeded \$12,000!** Much can be done with this generous response, and **we are deeply grateful to our Alumni for this very substantial act of confidence.** We appreciate that aspect of the contributions as much as the monetary part.

Other Alumni have helped in other ways. **Dr. Edward Marram**, President of GEO-CENTERS (Newton Centre, MA), has been responsible for his firm making an award of a full academic-year fellowship, as is described in more detail elsewhere in this GAZETTE. Also, the endowment fund established last year by **Donald and Phyllis Kuhn** continues to grow through their contributions, and income will soon be available for expenditure. To all contributors, the Faculty and Staff of the Department send their heartfelt thanks, and hope that the 1988 Chemistry Annual Fund will be even more successful. Again we enclose a contribution card and envelope with this GAZETTE, and we will look forward to having your support. If your employer has a matching gift program, this can double or even triple the award that you make. This was true of many contributions made last year, and there was a great enhancement of many gifts.

Please find the contribution card at the bottom of page 11.

