



GOESSMANN GAZETTE

PERPETRATED BY THE
Chemistry Department
University of Massachusetts
Amherst

JOHN ROBERTS, Editor in Chief
EARL McWHORTER, Associate Editor
AL WYNNE, Associate Editor

- SPRING, 1976 -

The cover for this issue, designed by Al Wynne, was made possible through the talent and cooperation of Diana Tardif of the U.Mass. Accounting Office, who provided the sketches.

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS
AMHERST
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING

REPRODUCED BY THE
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS

AMERICAN
ACCOUNTING



With this issue of the Goessmann Gazette, the chemistry department at the University of Massachusetts sends its greetings and best wishes to all of you alumni, wherever you may be. In spite of difficulties, we are still alive and functioning. What might be called a "State of the Department" message, prepared by Professor George Richason, Associate Department Head, follows.

FISCAL 1976

Much has been said and written about the impact of the Commonwealth's F'76 budgetary gyrations on the University and its programs. Assessments have varied from the naively unrealistic ("we've cut out the fat" -- Executive approach) to the "Doom's Day" prophesying by students. Somewhere in between, and quite different for each department, lies the real impact. This is an attempt to evaluate the effect of severe budget cuts on the program in the Department of Chemistry.

Operationally, the most difficult task was planning in a vacuum -- we didn't receive a budget until December, five plus months into the fiscal year. If you know how bad things are, at least you can try to accommodate. By mandate of the legislature, positions that became vacant could not be filled, and so we lost a secretarial and a stockroom position -- and both vacancies have caused severe problems. We started the academic year with the same number of Teaching Assistants as the previous year, because we were lucky enough to have all of our slots filled before the freeze hit. We started the academic year with two less faculty members than the previous year, one because of a frozen vacancy, and one because of extended illness. And we started the academic year with 806 more students enrolled in Chemistry courses than the previous year. The interest in our service courses has been rapidly increasing over the last several years. This last fall we had over 2400 enrolled in five different General Chemistry courses, and had to turn significant numbers away. In this climate, we didn't need the extra problems of budget cuts.

As soon as it was evident that it was going to be a bad year financially, the Personnel Committee appointed two Budget sub-committees to plan and implement. One committee looked at our dollar problem, the other at our people problem. As a consequence of recommendations made by these committees, a number of changes were implemented early in the fall semester. Telephone instrumentation was removed or modified, individual quotas were placed on toll calls and xerox charges, our "open stockroom" was changed to a "drawing account" approach for all faculty and graduate students, departmental financing of travel was eliminated, etc. After every other account had been cut to survival level, the remaining money was placed in the "supplies" or "stockroom" account. This remainder turned out to be far below the survival level, but, fortunately, we had an adequate inventory on which to draw. We'll run out of a few items before June 30, but we don't foresee any major problems.

In summation, we expect to survive until the end of the current fiscal year in June without any appreciable diminishment of the scope or quality of our offerings. There are inconveniences and inefficiencies and inequities as a consequence of a hand-to-mouth operation, but we're in business. Next year, however, is another matter. Our stockroom inventory will be badly depleted by June, and there's no way we can get through next year without a considerable increase in logistic support.

One procedural change is worthy of comment. Instead of a line item budget, we now get a sum of money from our Dean and can decide as to how we wish it allocated into individual accounts. This "autonomy" permits budgetary planning at the operational level, where it can be done most effectively. This has increased our half-life significantly.

We are hoping that the Governor and the Legislature will reaffirm their support of public higher education by providing a budget that will permit us to get the job done. You can help!

The Chemistry Department was shocked and saddened by the sudden death on May 8, 1975 of Joseph F. Traceski, our Principal Storekeeper. A member of the department since October of 1958, Joe set up and organized the stockroom in both the Goessmann addition in 1959 and the new stockroom in the Graduate Research Tower in 1972-73. In addition to supervising a staff of three storekeepers, Joe served on the Chemistry Department Safety Committee. He is survived by his wife, Clemence, a daughter, and three grand-children. Joe's friendly smile and his special knack of being helpful are greatly missed.

Clarence Powers has succeeded to Joe's position as Principal Storekeeper.

HONORS, AWARDS, SABBATICALS

On November 18, 1975, Prof. SIDNEY SIGGIA received the Kolthoff Gold Metal Award from the Academy of Pharmaceutical Sciences. The award is in recognition of Dr. Siggia's outstanding work in organic analysis via functional groups.

Prof. ROBERT R. HOLMES has received grants of \$75,000 from N.I.H. and N.S.F. The grants provide support for continuing research on "Non-rigid Pentacoordinate Phosphorus Compounds: A Model for Enzymatic Hydrolysis" and "Phosphate Model for Ribonuclease Action".

HOWARD D. STIDHAM spent a sabbatical year at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He was in the Solid State Physics Division where he collaborated with Dr. John B. Bates in the publication of five papers. A sixth is in preparation.

RAMON M. BARNES was on sabbatical leave in the fall of 1975. He spent five weeks in Europe at Euroanalysis II, Second European Conference on Analytical Chemistry, Budapest, Hungary; speaking engagements in Miskolc, Hungary, Kosice and Prague, Czechoslovakia, and Vienna, Austria. He attended the International Round Table on Thermal Plasmas in Font-Romeu, France and the International Symposium on Plasma Chemistry, Rome, Italy. Ramon has also received an NSF Undergraduate Instructional Equipment grant to introduce microcomputers and a computer controlled video teaching instrument into undergraduate instrumental analysis program.

RICHARD STEIN has been awarded the 1976 prize in High Polymer Physics by the American Physical Society.

Prof. WILLIAM E. McEWEN, Head of the Chemistry Department, spent a portion of his recent sabbatical leave in Mexico, Guatemala, and Venezuela. He attended the First Chemical Congress of North America in Mexico City by day, and listened to mariachi music in miscellaneous bars by night. Of course, he also managed to see a variety of Museums, ancient temples, and miscellaneous other cultured attractions.

While in Guatemala, he visited his son Alfred, who is a member of the Peace Corps in that unfortunate country. He and Al visited Antigua, which was destroyed by an earthquake a number of years ago, and now has been destroyed again. They also visited Oaxaca, Mexico, Bill's birthplace. Naturally, any visit to Oaxaca also involves side trips to the ruins at Mitla and Monte Alban, where an amazingly advanced civilization existed as early as 1000 B.C.

Bill is carrying out several cooperative research projects with Jack Lubinkowski in Caracas, Venezuela. This work involves several students at Universidad Simon Bolivar, where Jack holds a faculty position, and several colleagues at the Centro de Petroleo y Quimica of the Institute Venezolano de Investigaciones Cientificas, a large government laboratory, located on a mountain which overlooks Caracas. It required a week for Bill and Jack to complete a series of research conferences with the various people involved in the cooperative program. This still gave Bill a chance to spend several days sightseeing in Venezuela and Puerto Rico, which is just north of Caracas and only one hour away by plane.

Thermal analysis and the sponsorship of Professor Wesley W. Wendlandt drew AL WYNNE to the University of Houston during the 1974-75 academic year. In one project, Al was associated with a biophysics-chemistry group involved in studies of rhodium(II) carboxylate adducts, compounds for which anti-tumor activity in mice has been observed. He also served as one-third of a team studying the application of Differential Scanning Calorimetry to the identification of manufacturer and country of origin of certain drugs confiscated by the Houston Police Department, an investigation reported in the November, 1975, issue of "DuPont Instruments Newsscan". On an individual basis, Al pursued investigations of thermally activated light emission by polymeric materials undergoing degradation and thermally stimulated reactions of inorganic compounds in potassium halide matrices. A total of seven publications in these areas have appeared or will appear in *Thermochimica Acta* (Al reports that it helps to work for the Editor-in-Chief of the journal), *Analytica Chimica Acta*, and the *Journal of Inorganic and Nuclear Chemistry*.

The entire Wynne family very much enjoyed life in Houston and returned to cold, old Massachusetts with less than boundless enthusiasm.

VISITING LECTURERS - 1975

Prof. Henry Freiser Univ. of Arizona	Kinetics and Mechanisms of Inherently Rapid Reactions via a Solvent Extraction Technique.
Dr. Terrence J. Cardwell La Trobe University Victoria, Australia	Gas Chromatography of Metal Sulfur Complexes.
Prof. W. Geiger Univ. of Vermont	Electrochemical and EPR Studies of Transition Metal Complexes.
Prof. John S. Waugh M.I.T.	Double Resonance Trickery in Solids Containing Rare and Abundant Nuclear Spins.

