



CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT  
 UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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## GREETINGS TO CHEMISTRY ALUMNI WHEREVER YOU ARE!

We hope this issue of the Goessmann Gazette finds you well and happy. There have been some changes in the department and what better way to start than to have Professor Ronald Archer, our new department head ( see news item on page (1,10) bring you up to date on the state of the department.

### STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

A revival of interest in Chemistry -- Hallelujah! For the students we are unable to accept, for those in our 4:40 P.M. lecture section, and for those sharing lab lockers in organic classes, this may not seem to be a positive item. But it's great for the teaching assistants, research assistants and postdoctoral associates whom we can support through increased teaching monies (after a severe slash earlier ). The increased Federal support for Chemistry has helped too, and has offset some of the losses in state support for supplies, telephones, etc. To illustrate, well over \$300,000 of salaries were paid from Federal grants alone during 1976 within the Department of Chemistry. This is up approximately 50% from two years earlier. Petroleum Research Foundation and several industrial firms increase that total considerably.

The Department is adding two new faculty positions in the analytical and inorganic areas this year as the result of the early partial retirements of George Richason and J. Harold Smith. Because of our heavy teaching loads, we have been promised further additions as soon as the fiscal crisis eases a bit. This current year we have also added two "Assistant Professor and Postdoctoral Research Associate" positions (Craig Donahue and Roberta Day) to serve the dual function of easing the teaching loads a bit and providing a higher level of funding for postdoctoral positions.

Incidentally, although George Richason officially retired on August 31, 1976, he has been rehired on a part-time basis and serves very ably as Associate Department Head. I'd be lost without him. We also expect to get some teaching help from Harold Smith upon his retirement. Although the rest of us are another year older, the enthusiasm for excellent teaching and high quality research by the faculty in general helps make my job palatable.

For those of you who like statistics, Linda Warren notes that we awarded 28 Bachelor degrees last year (1976), but Joanie Wysocki ( our new secretary in the main office ) has 20 Ph.D., 10 M.S., and one M.A.T. ( Master of Arts in Teaching) listed for 1976. I will leave it up to the reader to draw conclusions.

Our graduates are generally in high demand both at the B.S. and Ph.D. level. One recruiter a few weeks ago complained that he had more jobs than UMass applicants. Naturally, some students are more easily placed than others, but for those with interest and ability, the broad based training we supply through our balanced department is appreciated by most employers.

On April 23rd, the Department of Chemistry and the Department of Chemical Engineering are cohosting a "Chemical Careers Insights '77" roadshow sponsored by the Younger Chemists Committee of the American Chemical Society. The Connecticut Valley ACS Section will use the occasion to give its annual outstanding senior chemistry student award to each college and University in the Section, which stretches from New Haven to Vermont. Lee Short and Ron Archer are the local organizers and Wes Bonds, a former UMass student is the ACS organizer and a speaker on "Problems of Transition from Academia to Industry." Since the program will be held in the Research Tower, it should give us a chance to show our upward progress.

With regard to student support, several undergraduates are employed by the Department, but the bulk of the support goes to the advanced degree personnel. This year we are supporting 50 students on teaching assistantships, 32 on research assistantships, and two on University Fellowships. Postdoctoral support is being provided to 14 persons, also.

What else has happened? Quite a bit, I'm sure. For instance, Jo Tetrault is now Mrs. Bahm and living far from Amherst. When Modest Poudrier retired, Joe Zolty replaced him in the machine shop, which is moving into much larger and more adequate facilities in Old Goessmann. A separate student shop will exist along with the professional shop. When Clemence Traceski retired, Elizabeth Reiche replaced her in the general chemistry prep room. Finally, Robert Zaikowski has been added to our stockroom staff.

Incidentally, Emil Slowinski started a new Alumni Chemistry Seminar Fund in order to allow for more high quality seminar speakers. Prof. Ian Scott of Yale will be the first recipient of a stipend from the fund. [ Contributions can be made to the fund directly to the Department or through the Alumni Association. In the latter case, be sure to earmark your contribution appropriately.]

All in all, things are looking up. The new eager faces of our staff, the upcoming faculty additions, and the improving state economy should make for a good year ahead.

When you're back in Amherst, drop in.

Ron Archer, Head  
Department of Chemistry

PROFESSOR RONALD D. ARCHER

Professor Ronald D. Archer became Head of Chemistry in January 1977, following his selection from the ranks, by a committee of his peers. (What better endorsement and send off could one ask for than that? )

Ron joined the chemistry faculty in September 1966, as an Associate Professor, and was promoted to Professor in 1970. Prior to coming to UMass, he was on the faculty at Tulane University for 3 years, and before that was at the University of California at Riverside for 4 years.

An inorganic chemist with the best of credentials, he earned his doctorate at the University of Illinois with the "Dean of Coordination Chemistry," John Christian Bailar, Jr., who has sent scores of his students to positions of eminence throughout the U. S. (and the world). Ron has an active research program, with good support from several agencies. Current research interests include: flexible metal chelate polymers through nonrigid metal centers; eight-coordinate stereochemistry of complexes of zirconium, niobium, molybdenum, tungsten, etc.; metal hormone interactions; metal corrosion in biological environments; metal catalyzed hydroxylation reactions; octahedral stereochemistry, especially of amino acid complexes; reaction stereochemistry of nucleophilic coordination species; photochemistry of coordination complexes.

Ron is very active in the American Chemical Society and several other professional societies. He frequently presents papers, and has organized several symposia and meetings-in-miniature. He has given many invited lectures and seminars abroad, as well as in the U.S., particularly at the International Conferences on Coordination Chemistry. He has a strong and vital interest in teaching, as well as in research, and is currently Program Director for the "Frontiers in Inorganic Chemistry" Summer Conference of the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers.

Ron married Joyce Carson in 1954; they have four children: Paul, Lynn, Sharon and Julie.

He assumes the Headship at a difficult time of unionization, budgetary cuts, shortages, and retrenchment rather than expansion. He has already tackled several substantive problems ( such as those of teaching loads and assignments; the Graduate Program Review, which will be done in May, etc.) with characteristic vigor and incisiveness. It will take real imagination, resourcefulness and leadership to maintain the quality of the research and teaching programs ( at all levels ) during a period of discouragement and low morale. Ron's aspirations and plans are summarized in his "State of the Department" message on page 1.

#### PROFESSOR WILLIAM E. McEWEN

Dr. William E. McEwen "stepped down" as Head of Chemistry in January. Bill came to the University of Massachusetts in 1962 as Commonwealth Professor of Chemistry and Head from the University of Kansas, where he had been an outstanding teacher, scholar ("the best on the Kansas campus"), and research worker. He brought a large group of graduate students with him from Kansas and has continued to be very active and productive, despite the demands of the Headship. His publications now number more than 125 papers (organic, with a heavy emphasis on compounds of phosphorus and related elements), half a dozen books, chapters in other books and reviews, etc. His list will doubtless expand even faster now as he returns to full time research and teaching.

The Department has grown and flourished under Bill's example, inspiration, and leadership. It has metamorphosed from a relatively small "undergraduate" Department, with a strong emphasis on teaching, to a large and diverse group with considerable research activity. Many able research people have been brought in

( the faculty now lists 40 ); there are a number of large research programs, with considerable outside support. Bill got very "high marks" when his "Headship" was formally evaluated two years ago.

Bill is a true "professional chemist", in every sense of the word. In addition to his administrative, teaching, and research work he has been very active at both the National and local levels of the American Chemical Society. He was elected a Fellow in the New York Academy of Sciences, and is the current Chairman-Elect of the Chemistry Section of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He serves on the editorial boards for several leading publications, is a Consultant for N.S.F., N.I.H., etc., and is a Research Collaborator at the Brookhaven National Laboratory and the Venezuelan Research Institute.

Bill married Miriam Sherman of Grinnell, Iowa in 1945; they have three children: Robert, Joan and Alfred.

The McEwens were honored at a reception in the lounge of the Graduate Research Towers on February 14, 1977, which was attended by a large group of faculty, staff, and graduate students. Bill and Mim were presented with a pair of UMass monogrammed chairs.

#### MRS. CHARLES PETERS

Mary Kittridge Peters died December 19, 1976 at Bradenton, Florida at the age of 97. She was the widow of the late Professor Charles A. Peters (U.Mass. class of 1897), beloved member of the faculty, who maintained a strong interest in the Department and its history for many years following his retirement in 1947. She was born in Hilo, Hawaii October 16, 1879, and was educated at the Dana Hall School and Wellesley College, both in Wellesley, Mass. The Peters were married June 29, 1905, and lived in Amherst from 1912 until Dr. Peters' death in 1973. When he died he was the oldest resident in town at 99 years of age. They are survived by two sons, Andrew K. Peters of Canton, N. Y., and Lovett C. Peters of Chestnut Hill; a daughter, Maud Kozlowski of Madison, Wisconsin; four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Burial was at the Wildwood Cemetery in Amherst.

#### MRS. FRANK MOORE

Mrs. Bertha Serex Moore died in Burtonsville, Md. on March 28, 1977 at the age of 88. Mrs. Moore was married to the late Dr. Paul Serex who was on the Chemistry faculty for approximately thirty years. He died in 1943. In 1945 she married Professor Frank Moore, head of the mathematics department. He died in 1966. Mrs. Moore's funeral was in Amherst with burial in Spring Grove Cemetery. She is survived by one son, three grandchildren and a niece.

