



RADIATING FROM:  
THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS  
AMHERST, MA 01003

WHICH IS LIGHTLY RESPONSIBLE  
FOR ITS ABSORBING CONTENTS,

## CHEMISTRY CHAIRPERSONS CONFERENCE

On March 3 and 4, a meeting of Chemistry Chairpersons from throughout the Northeastern part of the United States was held at the University of Massachusetts in our Graduate Research Tower. After a long social hour (because of a snow storm which caused a number of people to be delayed or even cancel out) a short organizational section was held followed by a dinner which was held at the Top of The Campus. After dinner, the conferees heard PROFESSOR ANNA HARRISON, who is currently President of the American Chemical Society, explain that Chemistry is truly in a transitory state, and that it is important that professors in Chemistry appreciate the changes which are occurring. This led into a discussion on chemical safety and the disposal of chemical waste materials. This allowed many Chairpersons to learn of Radiac, a company which appears to dispose of hazardous and other chemicals in environmentally acceptable ways. The concern of the Department Chairpersons for such matters is indicated by their continuing the discussion up until they were cut off at 11:00 p.m. The following morning the conferees discussed faculty loads, faculty evaluation, budget problems and concerns, student considerations, and curricular items in addition to a few miscellaneous topics. The conference closed with a buffet luncheon and a self-guided tour of the Chemistry facilities. The conferees appeared very enthusiastic about the conference and agreed that it should remain an annual affair, but the location for 1979 was not determined at the time. Apparently not all departments have persons like Ms. Margaret Palmeri, who did all of the extensive mailing and related matters for the conference. Whereas 70 persons had pre-registered for the Conference, a snow storm which came through the Northeast on Friday limited the attendance to 33 persons. In some respects that was a blessing, inasmuch as the group was a nice size for serious discussions.

## STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT

The Department Head is pleased to note that funding for the Chemistry Department from other than state sources appears to be on the increase. First of all, several of our alumni have contributed to the Chemistry Alumni Seminar Fund, which is being used to support honoraria and travel monies for distinguished chemists, who are asked to present seminars for the entire departmental community. Professor Bert Valley of Harvard and Professor Theodore Brown of Illinois were the 1977-78 speakers. We need appreciably more support for this to be a continuing operation. The contributions are routed through the Alumni Office as specially designated funds so that both the Department of Chemistry and the Alumni Fund get credit for the contributions. Research support by the Federal government has been on the increase for several individuals, and if we can get the state to realize that inflation hits us as hard as anyone else, things will be even better. Last May we had our Graduate Program Review by a distinguished team of visitors including an alumnus, PROFESSOR RUSSELL DRAGO, (Illinois), Professor James Durig (South Carolina), Professor James Hart (Michigan State), and Professor Louis Meites (Clarkson).

In general, the team commended our program for its strong points and recommended some relatively minor adjustments. This constructive criticism is being considered by the relevant departmental committees, and we hope that the effect will truly be a positive one.

Fresh insights for the Department of Chemistry are being provided through our two new faculty members, PROFESSORS BARBARA KALBACHER and MARIAN STANKOVICH, who are outstanding young chemists in the Inorganic and Analytical areas respectively. (See the separate items on these individuals.) Furthermore, PROFESSOR STUART ROSENFELD is substituting for Professor Louis Carpino, who is on a leave of absence in Europe. Professor CARPINO spent the Fall semester in Poland and is currently in West Germany at Mainz. Further new insights are being obtained through visiting research faculty members; namely, PROFESSORS STEINAR HUSEBYE (a non-metal chemist from the University of Bergen) and ADRIENNE KOZLOWSKI (a coordination chemist from Central Connecticut State College).

Finally, I would like to indicate my feeling that it is truly a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of persons. Considering the pitifully small salary increases which have accrued since 1973, it is truly a miracle to have such a dedicated faculty, staff, and graduate student group.

#### RICHASON TESTIMONIAL

A testimonial banquet was held on Sept. 11, 1977 in honor of GEORGE R. RICHASON JR.'s retirement from the Department of Chemistry. About 200 of George's friends gathered in Worcester Dining Commons for an evening of fun and frivolity ( and some serious moments as well ). Dr. Oswald Tippo was Master of Ceremonies and Father Quigley offered the invocation. Speakers representing the Board of Trustees, the President and the Chancellor all noted George's contributions to the entire University. Senator John Olver (formerly of this department) and Representative James Collins brought greetings and citations from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Athletic Department, represented by Dean Emeritus Warren McQuirk, presented George with the winning Maine game ball. Friends from the Turners Falls A.C. (George's home town), the Naval Reserve unit, Amherst Golf Club, and St. Brigid's Church recounted their many happy and often humorous good times with George and his wife Fran. A special Jim Trelease ( he is the Springfield Newspapers sports cartoonist ) caricature was presented to George. The Alumni Association gave him a University chair. Bill McEwen, on behalf of the Chemistry Department, gave George a Ron Archer designed, and Gordon Good constructed trophy honoring his thirty years of service to the department. The evening concluded with a gift of luggage from all their friends to George and Fran Richason. It was a great party.

## VISIT BY A CHEMISTRY DELEGATION FROM THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The first Chemistry Delegation from the People's Republic of China visited the U.S.A. last spring and the University of Massachusetts was one of their major stops. Seven scientists were here consisting of three each in polymer science and analytical chemistry and one liaison officer. They were accompanied by personnel from our National Academy of Sciences.

For three days they discussed recent advances in polymer sciences and in analytical chemistry with our staff members. The Chinese scientists also delivered two lectures, one on "The Effects of Twice-Drawing of PAN Fibers on the Structure and Properties of Its Carbon Fiber," and the other on "Pulse Polarography." The evening programs consisted of informal dinners with the U.S. - Chinese faculty and a formal banquet. There were free exchanges of views on society and lives in China today. The names of the visitors are as follows:

Subgroup BFields of Interest

Relationship between structure and properties of polymeric materials.

Polymer physics in fabrication of polymeric materials, rheology of polymeric systems, modification and control of polymeric material structure.

Structures and characteristics of polymers and polymeric materials.

HUANG Wei-yuan

Organic Chemist

Deputy Division Head

Shanghai Institute of Organic  
Chemistry

Academia Sinica

HSU Mao

Polymer Physicist

Division Head

Institute of Chemistry  
Academia Sinica

CHOU En-lo

Polymer Physicist

Kirin Institute of

Applied Chemistry

Academia Sinica

Subgroup C

Organic and inorganic analytical chemistry, trace analysis and instrumental analysis, analytical separations.

Structural analysis of organic compounds, continuous analysis and automation, especially computer application in analytical chemistry.

WANG Erh-kang

Inorganic Analyst

Kirin Institute of Applied  
Chemistry

Academia Sinica

HSIA Tsung-hsiang

Organic Analyst

Shanghai Institute of Organic  
Chemistry

Academia Sinica

CHANG Lo-feng

Organic Analyst

Dairen Institute of  
Chemical Physics

Academia Sinica

SU Feng-lin

Staff Member

Foreign Affairs Bureau

Scientific and Technical Association  
of the People's Republic of China.

VISITING LECTURERS

THE FIVE COLLEGE LECTURES

April 28-30, 1977

were given by

Professor A. Ian Scott  
Department of Chemistry  
Yale University

( As of June 1, 1977, Professor Scott has assumed the position  
of Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Texas A & M University)

The titles follow:

Biosynthesis of Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, Goessmann Laboratory, U Mass.

How Nature makes Porphyrins and Corrins, Science Center, Amherst College

In Search of the Porphyrin-Corrin Connection, McConnell Hall, Smith College

A Recapitulation of Vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, Porphyrin and Corrin Chemistry, Cleve-  
land Hall, Mount Holyoke College.

Many other visiting lecturers presented seminars. These are listed below:

Dr. Strasheim  
National Physical Research Laboratory  
Pretoria, South Africa

Analytical Chemistry at the  
National Physical Research  
Laboratory

Prof. Allen Kropf  
Dept. of Chemistry  
Amherst College  
Amherst, Mass.

Visual Chemistry: Studies with  
Synthetic Analogs of Retinal

Prof. James Hendrickson  
Dept. of Chemistry  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Mass.

A New Approach to Synthesis Design

Dr. Jaroslav Vit  
Realco Chemical Co.  
New Brunswick, N. J.

The Vitride Reducing Agent

Prof. Gayl Wiegand  
Dept. of Chemistry  
Idaho State University  
Pocatello, Id.

Chemical Kinetic Systems  
for Geothermal Exploration

Prof. James E. Quick  
Dept. of Chemistry  
Northeastern University  
Boston, Mass.

The Chemistry of  $\alpha$ -alkoxy- $\alpha,\beta$   
Unsaturated Carbonyl Compounds

