GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Alumnus:

This is my first opportunity to greet you in my role as Chairman of the Chemistry Department.

For almost 30 years I have heard from you by card or letter, and have talked with you when you returned to this area on a visit. Such contacts were at best ephemeral and infrequent.

Last spring for the first time several of the Chemistry faculty took part in a telephone campaign which was sponsored by our University Alumni Relations. During that evening I talked with several of you, as far away in space as California and in time as 1949.

Your questions and comments convinced me of the need for this newsletter. In this first issue, which it is hoped can be followed in future years by new issues, I will try to cover, quite literally, a time gap amounting to more than a half century, recognizing that our classes commenced in October of 1926.

Every year of my service to the Department has been eventful and busy. As the years have passed, the character of the events and the demands upon my time have changed, however, and at the present time my stewardship of the Department's affairs concerns every one of the numerous elements of teaching, research, service, and finance.

In casting back over the span of life of the Department, three items loom larger than the myriad of academic events which constantly wash forth and through the day-to-day life of the Department: The great enrollment bulge which followed World War II; the move of the Department (and of our neighbor department, biology) from the old North Campus "Cardboard College" to the new Cox Science building on the main campus in September of 1967; and finally the inflation which has in the past five years, especially, eroded the purchase power of our budget dollars.

HARRY P. SCHULTZ

Despite tribulations with budget and manpower, the Department is a vigorous, vital, and productive unit. Its status vis-a-vis other departments of the College is superior; the quality of its program as measured by exteriors, national norms is excellent; and the regard with which the Department is viewed by our students is gratifying and heart-warming.

We were joined this fall by two new faculty members: one in organic; the other in inorganic. In a time of falling enrollment elsewhere, our own classes continue to maintain their numbers, our graduates increase in number each year (the past year saw us give the BS degree to 108 persons, placing us sixth in the nation!), and our students continue to find jobs or places in professional school. There is every reason for optimism.

Write; tell us how you are, and what you're doing! Have a Happy New Year.

Harry P. Schultz

REVIEW, 1976 - 1977

The past year was a full one for the UM chemistry department. Departmental enrollment remained firm in spite of falling student registrations throughout the University and our country. In a total of 45 classes (36 of them undergraduate) there were approximately 5,000 students.

Seven graduate degrees (6 PhD; 1 MS) and 108 BS degrees were granted. Of the latter, however, only six were ACS professional certified chemists. As for the past several years, production of baccalaureate degrees was such as to place us in the upper ten of the 528 colleges and universities which reported ACS-certified professional degrees.

Most of our majors were premedical and preprofessional, of whom a very satisfying proportion were accepted to professional schools. One such, Robert Carr, had a perfect grade point average for his four years of UM study, winning the national $3,000 Phi Kappa Phi scholarship award, as well as being accepted to several medical schools.

Two new courses were inaugurated during the year. CM 101, Consumer Science, a one credit course, attracted relatively large numbers of nonmajor students, as well as some adults. Dr. Snyder taught the course once a week in the early evening to an enthusiastic group, a few of whom were so interested in chemistry that they became regular majors. CM 300, Aquatic Chemistry, three credits, was taught on an experimental basis by Drs. Brost-Hansen and Hare to a group of professional chemistry and/or biology majors. A new interdisciplinary program with Marine Science may spur enrollment in CM 300 and thereby justify changing its status from an experimental to a regular course.

Production of preview-review enrichment-problem solving-lab demonstration tapes continues. Each division of chemistry has been active in making these 15-minute TV-cassette units which are placed in the central (continued on Page 4)
HISTORY OF THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT in the beginning...

As early as 1916 influential Miami citizens, among whom was William Jennings Bryan, started to consider the desirability of a South Florida university. In 1923 a similar group again discussed founding a Pan American University in Miami. But in April 1925 a citizen's band vigorously led by W. Wallace F. Ziegler and C. Merrick obtained a state charter for a new Miami-area university; and on 15 October 1926, launched into an uncertain future of hurricanes, land-value detriments, depressions, and a world war, was the University of Miami.

Only three presidents have been at the helm of the University: Bowman F. Ashe, 1926-1952; Jay F. W. Pearson, 1953-1962; and Henry King Stanford, 1962-present.


But what about the history of the UM chemistry department? The period of time from 1926-1946 is almost a blank page insofar as chemistry (or any other department) is concerned. Class enrollments, course outlines, and curricula do not exist for the first two decades of life of the UM chemistry department. But by reading old personnel files and bulletins and abstracting the information therein, much interesting information may be obtained.

It is convenient to divide the history of the UM chemistry department into the regimes of the various chairmen, for each of the first 20 years of the chemistry department was the sole member of said department.

A rapid review summarizes the service periods of the chairmen:


Otto J. Siepeln, born 21 December 1877 in Cleveland, Ohio, received his BS (1899) and MS (1902) degrees from the Case School of Science and earned the PhD degree from the University of Born (Germany) in 1906. He returned to this country and an academic life by joining the chemistry department of Grove City College, Pennsylvania, during the period of 1906-1925 rising to become professor and head of his chemistry department.

Due to the slow recovery from osteomyelitis of his hand, Professor Siepeln, Otto J. Siepeln moved to Florida in 1925 to live in the pleasant and healing clime of Sebring. Already in 1925 B. F. Ashe was beginning to bring together the nucleus of a faculty for the planned University. This resulted in a trip (for which the embryo University was charged $88.50) by Dr. Siepeln to Miami for the purpose of being interviewed by President-to-be Ashe. Favorable commendations from the Pittsburgh area, as well as being virtually on the scene, resulted in O. J. Siepeln being one of the first of the new faculty to be appointed --- as Assistant professor for $4,000 for the academic year of 1926-27! The next two years were to see the rapid promotion of Dr. Siepeln to professor, but were also to see an equally rapid deterioration in the salary scale, so much so that by the year 1930 many salaries remained partially in deficit.

In June of 1925 the infant University had 215 acres of land lying on the west Coral Gables; some of the land was mortgaged; promises of 10 millions of dollars were in hand; the land boom in Florida was roaring. Ground was broken on 14 January 1926 for the first of five planned buildings, none of which was realized due to hurricane of 17/18 September 1926 blew away the Florida land boom and the credits which were promised the new University of Miami. In 1929 a depression concrete was to be the only presence of the University of Miami on its own campus.

Rather, it was into an unfinished hotel that Dr. Siepeln moved his chemistry department. On the corner of Annaestas and University Avenues in Coral Gables President Ashe established the new University in a rented concrete and stuccoed, three-floor framework structure. The first two floors, hastily fitted with studw, flooring, and cardboard, were the home of the entire University until after the end of World War II.

A glance at the first UM Bulletin shows that parallel sequences of a year of freshman chemistry were offered: - one sequence, Chemistry 1 and 2 (General Inorganic Chemistry) for those who presented high school chemistry, and Chemistry 3 and 4 (Elementary Inorganic Chemistry) for those with no high school chemistry background.

No enrollment records for these courses exist, but the total enrollment of 372 day students, very few were likely in chemistry. The 1927 (first) issue byblos showed a grand total of only 8 premedical and predental students out of the 185 students named and pictured ---- 4 seniors, 17 juniors, 20 sophomores and 144 freshmen.

Siepeln shared faculty status with 18 others in the College of Liberal Arts (plus 30 in the Faculty of Music). Tuition was $225 for the academic year, and was to remain at this figure for 15 years, (Today the tuition is $3300 for the academic year,) but each laboratory course had also a $10 fee per semester. Dormitory space was $225 per year for men; $25-875 per month for women.

In the 1927 UM Bulletin O. J. Siepeln is listed as an Associate Professor; Chemistry 5 and 6 at 4 credits each (Organic Chemistry) were added to the curriculum, and the premedical curriculum was designated in the Bulletin as 'Curriculum E.'

In 1928 Dr. Siepeln is listed as Professor of Chemistry, Chemistry 7 and 8 at 4 credits each, (Analytical Chemistry alternates with Organic Chemistry) were additionally listed in the Bulletin, and a new administrative level between Professor Siepeln and President Ashe appeared --- Dr. Henry S. West, Dean, Colleges.

No change occurs in the 1929 Bulletin, but the 1930 UM Bulletin completed the basic offerings of the Chemistry Department by listing Chemistry 9 and 10, 4 credits each, Physical Chemistry.

In the 1930 (fourth) this the name of Ivan T. Lindstrom appears as a new graduate, having just completed the B. S. degree at the University of Miami. Dr. Lindstrom will become a part of chemistry department history later. But more obviously, the name of Dr. O. J. Siepeln is missing from its faculty roster! After observing that a trimester plan (Autumn-Winter-Spring) with total tuition still at $225 was instituted in September of 1932, lets examine the personnel files of the University and find there the reason for the fact that Professor Siepeln was no longer on the faculty.

Professor was weighing heavily upon the new University: faculty salaries were in arrears; bills for supplies were unpaid; student enrollment was dropping.

O. J. Siepeln along with six other faculty members: K. B. English, A. H. Gilbert, O. P. Hart, D. G. Henshaw, S. S. Hoel and J. L. Skinner, brought charges continued on page 4
GEORGE CLARKE continues to be active as chairman of the University premedicolemma, a member of the medical school admissions committee, and as faculty advisor (since 1972) of Alpha Epsilon Delta, the national honorary society. In addition to attending a Computer in Education Conference at SUNY, Binghamton, New York in June 1976, he travels rather extensively within Florida as a Florida Affiliate Board Member of the American Heart Association. His wife, Jan, and his two daughters enjoy accompanying Dr. Clarke on the state trips.

CECIL CRISS, promoted to full professor in June 1976, gave several papers at Leeds, England, in July 1976 on the thermochemistry of nonequilibreous solutions. The National Science Foundation sponsors much of Dr. Criss’ work in this esoteric and potential realm of research. In the course of which most recently two postdoctoral students also worked with Dr. Criss, Dr. Choi and Dr. Shin. Two publications, J. Chem. Educ., 53, 765 (1976) and J. Sci. Chem., 78 (1976) with fellow workers: Dr. Shin and I. Worsley appeared this past year. All of this activity won for Dr. Criss the 1977 Florida Award. The department will miss Cec during the 1977-78 academic year, as he is on sabbatical leave in Lund, Sweden.

CURTIS DELCHAMPS, since 1955 a well-loved teacher of chemistry, died on 12 September 1977 after a brief illness. Dr. Delchamps came to UM from an instructorship in West Virginia University, from which school he also earned the Ph.D. degree.

RICHARD DOEPKER fills every hour of the day with teaching and research activity. In the event of C. P. TEBEAU (1973), Dr. Doepker took over the analytical chemistry division of the department, in addition to which he continues vigorous research programs studying the use of methanol in gasoline engines and the photolysis of hydrocarbons by high-energy ultraviolet rays. The latter work has led to his most recent publication (with Z. Diaz) in J. Phys. Chem., 81/424 (1977).

WALTHER is active as a teacher and researcher in each facet of inorganic chemistry. What he doesn’t know about water isn’t worth knowing! Two recent papers (J. Colloid Interface Sci., 54, 184 (1976); 58, 251 (1977)) published with colleagues J. Schulte and C. Huang, as well as presentations in Puerto Rico, New Hampshire, Boston, and France still left him time to serve on an advisory committee of the national ACS.

ROBERT GAWLEY just joined the department in August 1977, coming here with a Ph.D. degree from Duke University and postdoctoral experience at the University of North Carolina. Already Bob is immersed in research on natural products and the study of synthetic routes which utilize photolysis reactions of organic compounds.

ARMIN GROPP teaches QM 112 for the department on a part-time basis. Usually, as director of the University Institutional Statistics unit, he tries to derive straight line functions not of rates of chemical reactions, but rather of the numbers of future students expected by each of the varied units of the University!

ALFRED MILLIS still defeats all opponents at tennis, teaches general, analytical, and physical chemistry to mainly premedical students, and remains active in ACS affairs. As of 1975, however, Captain Mills was transferred from the US Navy active reserve to a retired status.

WILLIAM MURCELL arrived in the chemistry department in August 1977 with a PhD from the University of New Brunswick and his experience at Northern Illinois University. He is already busy researching reactions of Cytochrome c, as well as teaching senior inorganic chemistry.

HARRY SCHULTZ has completed his fifth year as chairman of the chemistry department. Quinoxaline chemistry still occupies his research attention as a recent publication indicates: J. Org. Chem., 42, 2504 (1977).

But in addition, the history of US chemistry has taken him on many trips to schools and meetings throughout Florida, talking about the way it used to be in our profession, and he continues each Mon morning at 8 am to meet QM 201 or 202.

JACKSON SICKELS is the senior professor of the department, and soon to retire. Sicks presently is responsible for the three-semester sequence of chemistry courses which is designed for the nursing and general students.

CARL SNYDER has become, in addition to his activity in organic chemistry, Mr. Consumer Science. A weekly column in the Hurricane, two new freshman courses, and numerous magazine articles, all on the subject of consumer science, keep Dr. Snyder busy. For the summers of 1975, 76, and 77 NSF has supported his studies with a "Faculty Fellowship on Societal Problems" at such places as Cornell, Washington, and Davis, California, and during the year Carl puts this interest into practice as a member of county Environmental Review Boards.

CURTIS HARE sponsors the Chemistry Club and is active in research concerned with environmental problems and water quality. In July 1976 he attended a conference in Venezuela concerned with air, water, and land fertility problems.

HENRY HUBINGER, coadjuvant of the departmental general chemistry program, continues active in his educational experimentation. Working on an AP conference in Miami, in May 1977, speaking at Clemson in October 1978, presenting a paper in November 1978 at an ACS meeting in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, merely spark his creativity for the preparation of more of his TV review tapes in general chemistry.

ARTHUR KEENAN continues his research on chemical reactions in fused, molten salts and the teaching of physical chemistry. Three papers published within the last academic year: J. Electrochem. Soc., 123, 179 (1976); J. Solide State Chem., 16, 151, 236 (1976) were coauthored with only a few (C. Webb, D. Kramer, K. Compton, and M. Qumlan) of the many who have earned the Ph.D degree under his aegis. When not researching, Art spends his time in a lovely 27-foot sloop on the Bay or in the Bahamas.

EUGENE MAN, as Dean of Research Coordination, manages to keep his hand in as a Professor of Chemistry by being PI of a research project housed in the chemistry department. He is interested in determining the age of geologic specimens by studying the amount of amino acid racemization. Along with colleagues J. Rada, M. Show, and B. Katz Gene has recently published two papers: Geol. Soc. Amer. Abs. 8, 72 (1976); 9, 947 (1976).

CLARENCE STUCKWISCH was chairman of the chemistry department 1968-72, until becoming (and continuing to be) Dean of the Graduate School to the present time. Dr. Stuckwisch still maintains research activity, as his most recent article in J. Org. Chem., 41, 1173 (1976) demonstrates, but during the academic year of 1976-77, he was also acting Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, a double service to the University which has latterly precluded research.

KEITH WELLMAN returned to us after a year's absence, spent at the University Sao Paulo, Brazil. A part of his current research interest derives from that experience, the study of relative acidities and basicities (for example, alcohols) in the vapor state. Additionally, Keith continues work on coordination complexes of amino acids with various metal ions such as copper, cobalt, and chromium.

Additionally, three adjunct faculty members help the chemistry department in the realm of research. FRANK MILLERO of the Marine Science department is a physical chemist interested in salt solutions—mainly seawater! GEORGE FISHER of the Department of Medicine synthesizes polypeptides, and RONALD LIPPMAN of the Medical Institute utilizes nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy to study continued on page 4.
library for student checkout and use—a use that ranged from 965 to 2158 plays per month this past year! The administration has heartily supported tape preparation by furnishing the studio and directive personnel, whilst chemistry has been fortunate to have access to funds for the artwork, props and blank tapes needed.

Personnel, both faculty and staff, remain at a constant level. Drs. Badgley retired, and Simplicio resigned, and they have been replaced by Drs. Gawley and Parcell.

Several of the research faculty have had research supported by grants Dr. Criss, NSF; Dr. Drost-Hansen, EPA; Dr. Man, NSF; Dr. Snyder, NSF.

The continuing qualitative improvement of courses was materially helped last year with a $22,000 University fund infusion (for electronic and instrumental equipment) into the undergraduate analytical chemistry program.

HISTORY

of every academic and fiscal dimension against President Ashe, in a circular dated 25 April 1952—undemocratic; too high a salary (for the president); control by the president of the board of regents; support of athletes with scholarship funds; absence from campus at crises times, etc. The charges were evidently considered serious enough to merit extensive reaction. The Board of Regents established a panel to hear and adjudicate the charges; these findings were printed under the date of 26 May 1952. Virtually all of the charges were judged as unsupported, but the board did recommend firmer fiscal control and reportage by University officers.

In rapid succession during the following weeks Dr. Sieplein received from President Ashe a check for $240 to have been received as summer session salary (17 June 1952) and a cancelled contract (13 July 1952).

Although Dr. Sieplein left the University, he continued to live in the Coral Gables area. From 1928-37 he was director of the Miami Sun Ray Research Institute of the Joseph H. Adams Foundation, (Dr. J. H. Adams was a chemist who had pioneered the petroleum cracking processes so necessary for the production of gasoline on a large scale; living on Miami Beach, he was a UM Regent from 1925-31). From 1928-1955 Dr. Sieplein was the owner-director of Sun Test Paint Proving Grounds, but even after retirement in 1955, O. J. Sieplein continued to reside in Coral Gables until 1962, when he moved (via Norfolk, Virginia) to Tombstone, Arizona. Dr. Sieplein, first UM professor of chemistry, died in Arizona 16 January 1965.

NEWS

tissue structure. Research productivity, as measured by publications, of the three adjunct faculty would require more space than available here. We're pleased to have Drs. Block, Fisher, and Millero on our chemistry team.

CALVIN STEVENS, Professor (and sometime chairman) of Chemistry at Wayne State University, spends each winter with the UM chemistry department. As a visiting professor he brings a fresh and popular view of chemistry quite especially to our graduate students and faculty.

The chemistry faculty is strengthened by four staff members. ARTHUR CARLSON, Instrument Maker, is a whiz at repairing, remodeling, and building the various electronic instruments that chemistry needs access to for teaching and research. GLORIA OXPER, Secretary, and most recent staff addition, takes care of most of our correspondence; her typing has brought together the material you are presently reading!

FRED DIXON, (lt. Col. Ret., USAF), Stockroom Coordinator, does just that, and very well so. Our hourly helpers and Work-Study students are a constructive team, thanks to his efficient and persona manage ment. The volume of paper which today moves through the central chemistry office is kept in order, with all deadlines met, because of the care taken by ROBERTA MANNING, Stock Coordinator.

CECIL M. CRISS

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