THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT TODAY
by Cecil M. Criss

President Foote's boundless optimism in creating the elite university of the South, as well as our campus beautification program, and our winning of the football championship last year, have had an enormous, positive impact on the atmosphere in the University of Miami and on our confidence for the future. A simultaneous increase in both the enrollment and SAT scores of the entering class this fall gives solid evidence of growing excellence. Developments in the Chemistry Department have also given impetus to an optimism that is no less than that for the University as a whole.

FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the new UM CHEM. With Harry Schultz's recent retirement, I have accepted editorial responsibility for this newsletter; our annual communication with you, our alumni, friends, and colleagues.

As our new chairman, Cecil Criss takes over the leadership of the Chemistry Department and carries us into a new era in our growth, an era marked by immense changes. Now, as we enter that era, we stand at a moment of transition. Looking back, we see a history of excellence in undergraduate teaching and of steady growth in the quality and quantity of our graduate research. As we look to the future we see a vision of continued excellence in teaching and, in addition, an accumulation of national recognition for excellence in research.

This, then, is a good moment to pause, to reflect a little on our past, examine our present, and dream a bit of our future. For this issue of UM CHEM, I have asked Harry Schultz (our former chairman), Cecil Criss (our new chairman), and George Gokel (our newest colleague, from the University of Maryland) to give us their views of the past, the present, and the future. Their comments make up

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Carl H. Snyder
This past year has seen some extraordinary changes in Chemistry; the coming year will be another one of remarkable change. Last fall two new faculty joined the Department, Drs. Lee Bartolotti and Luis Echegoyen. Their backgrounds were reported in the previous UM CHEM. They came with very high recommendations and they have lived up to our expectations. Both are strongly research oriented, as well as excellent teachers. Luis received a major research grant from NIH in July. There were several other “comings and goings” in the Department during the year; Carl Snyder was on sabbatical leave at the University of London during the fall term to study the organic analysis of natural products, and during the spring semester Bob Gawley was on sabbatical leave at Colorado State University where, among other things, he completed most of the writing for a chapter of a book.

Our fine colleague of many years and Department Chairman, Harry Schultz, retired at the end of May and I assumed the position of Chairman on 1 June. In August I appointed Keith Wellman as Associate Chairman to help with the many details of running a modern chemistry department. The office and seminar room will soon be remodeled so that Keith’s office will be located in the main office complex. This insures that someone will generally be available in the departmental office to advise students and to oversee general office operations.

Dr. Schultz’s reputation as an excellent teacher is legendary; his role as Department Chairman under rather adverse conditions of inadequate resources is no less remarkable. Under Harry's leadership, the Department has developed to the point where it can now move rapidly ahead in achieving a national reputation for excellence in research as well as teaching. The Department can best be described as a rocketship sitting on the launchpad, fully fueled and ready to take off. We will miss him dearly. On the bright side, however, Harry will continue to live in South Florida for at least part of the year, and has agreed to some part-time teaching. He also hopes to continue to do some research. Currently, Dr. Schultz is residing in Wyoming with his wife, and he informs me that he has kept busy working on his house and planting trees. We wish him happiness in his retirement.

Other significant changes in faculty positions have been brought about by the unexpected death of Arthur Keenan last March, the resignation of Tim Cummings at the end of May, and the departure of George Clarke to take a Deanship at Central Connecticut State University. With the expansion of the Department by addition of one position, these changes led to four faculty openings as of 1 June.

We are fortunate to have filled one of the openings with a senior person, who comes to us with the highest recommendations as a teacher and a scholar. Professor George W. Gokel, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Maryland, will join the Department on 1 January 1985. Professor Gokel has received numerous awards, including the Leo Schubert Award from the Washington Academy of Sciences for the outstanding teaching of science. In spite of being rather young (38), he has over 100 publications in the scientific literature and has been well supported by federal granting agencies for several years. He is a very dynamic person, and we are pleased that he has expressed an interest in teaching the basic organic chemistry course, as well as graduate courses. We are delighted to welcome George as a colleague.

We are now engaged in the very tedious task of filling the remaining three positions in inorganic, physical and/or organic chemistry with outstanding teachers and researchers to guarantee the future excellence of the Department.

From the Editor
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the bulk of this edition of the newsletter.

Space limitations for this UM CHEM permit the publication of only a small fraction of the many items of news and interest we have received from our alumni. A larger portion of the next issue of the newsletter will be devoted to alumni news, so please send us items of interest about yourself.

I hope you like the new UM CHEM. Speaking for the entire Chemistry Department, we look forward to hearing from you.

Carl H. Snyder,
Editor, UM CHEM
Research activity in terms of grants received and graduate students in the Department is changing so rapidly that it is difficult to keep track of the details. Three new grants of substantial size have been received since last December, and three others have been renewed with substantial increases in funding level. This adds up to a 300 percent increase in the funding level, in two years, and a 100 percent increase in the number of graduate students, now numbering 30. While the increased activity is welcome news, it is placing a severe strain on the departmental resources in terms of instrument maintenance and clerical help.

The Department remains one of the largest in the nation in the production of chemistry majors, being sixth (up from 14th) out of 570 schools certified by the American Chemical Society for the 1982-83 academic year. During the past year 98 students earned their baccalaureate chemistry major degrees, about the same as in recent years. Enrollment in Chemistry last year was down about 10 percent from previous years, but enrollment figures for the current year show a 17 percent increase. At the end of the last academic year there were about 330 chemistry majors in the Department; approximately 210 of these were premedical students and 34 of the graduating seniors were honors students.

The quality of the students in the chemistry program remains high. In the spring of 1984, 13 of the 41 senior tappeses (32%) of Phi Beta Kappa were chemistry majors. These honors were attained in spite of the recognized rigorous grading in the Department. According to the student newspaper (Hurricane, 60, 1; 11 November 1983), the departmental average GPA is 2.199, placing Chemistry 48th out of the 50 departments compared. We are proud of our graduates!

The chemistry honorary society, Phi Lambda Upsilon, sponsored by Bob Gawley, has prospered under the able leadership of Inez Triay. Inez was the UM delegate to its 27th National Congress, 2-6 June 1983, in Detroit.

Carolyn M. Marziasz using an ultraviolet spectrophotometer supported by alumni gifts.

In early August seven members were initiated, bringing the current chapter membership to 38. The current officers are Gigi Hart, President; Milagros Delgado, Vice President; Iris Payan, Secretary; and Inez Triay, Treasurer.

Four Alumni Graduate Student Awards were presented at the annual Christmas party, held at Dr. Schultz’s home. The best teaching assistant awards went to Marta Pappas (undergraduate student evaluation) and Iris Payan (faculty evaluation). On the academic side, the best first-year graduate student award for the core program went to Jeffrey Bianchini, and the best overall upper-class graduate student award went to Gregory Smith. At the Spring Meeting of the Florida Section of the American Chemical Society, 10-12 May, Lakeland, Milagros Delgado, received a second place award for her student paper.

The ability of the Department to make internal awards to students, and to assist students in attending meetings, such as the Florida ACS Meeting, is possible only because of generous gifts from our alumni. The alumni gifts also cover the cost of printing and mailing this newsletter, as well partially supporting an excellent seminar program. Your gifts have an immediate effect on student morale and activities. None of these things would be possible without your financial support. By the time you receive this newsletter, the annual telephone campaign will be over. We sincerely hope that you feel these activities to be sufficiently worthwhile to merit your continued support. To ensure that your gift is credited to the Chemistry account, be sure that you write “Chemistry” on the pledge card when you return it with your gift.

We are always pleased to hear from you, our alumni, or better still have you visit us. We hope that you will stop in the Department whenever you have the opportunity to be on campus.
GENTLEMEN, MEET your classes tomorrow and do the very best you can under the circumstances,” said W. H. Steinbach, chairman of the Department back in 1947. The words were spoken at the first meeting of the new academic year to a Department that had increased its faculty size from three to a dozen and its students from about 300 to 1500 within just a few months.

The meeting occurred in a hot, humid, musty second-floor office in the old North Campus building on a day late in September 1947, and was to set the tone for a hectic year.

All courses above the 100-level were taught at the North Campus in an old three-story, stuccoed building located where now stands the Coral Gables Library. Chemistry shared the building with botany, engineering, law, zoology, and the University library. Huge ex-U.S. Navy buses transported students among the three campuses — North, Main, and South. Classes started on the hour on the Main Campus and on the half hour on the North Campus. Organic chemistry met at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday mornings, and mighty chill were some of the midwinter mornings! The old building was without both heat and air conditioning.

The students were all memorable — a mix of young, eager, capable local high school graduates for whom the University played the role of the only local, available source of an advanced, preprofessional education, and older, intense, immensely motivated World War II veterans anxious to get on with interrupted lives. Of the veterans some were locals, but many came from other parts of the country, returning to a Miami where they had trained early in the war, or coming to a University that promised them a campus home in the face of so many filled campuses the country over.

On the Main Campus all 100-level courses met in lecture rooms of 110 seats, mostly on the second floor of the Memorial Classroom Building, the only permanent structure on the Main Campus at that time. The freshman chemistry laboratory was a “temporary” wooden building which still stands off the west end of the Memorial Classroom Building, and is now used for physical education classes.

Labs in the old Anastasia (North Campus) Building were crowded, hectic, smoke-filled, and smelly. Equipment and chemicals required months, sometimes years, to arrive from Chicago and New York warehouses. It was a measure of the times for a student helper to interrupt a class session with the happy announcement to the professor that a desperately needed consignment of beakers had at last arrived!

And alongside the established undergraduate program a new chemistry graduate M.S. program was started on the North Campus; Seymour Yolles (with H. P. Schultz) and Charles Hargis (with H. B. Huddle) were the first two graduate students in chemistry. The University carpenter shop built a research lab, the first of several over a period of a dozen years, in the former North Campus office of President Ashe, unearthing old correspondence and a hidden telephone in one corner of the room as the lab table, sink, and shelves were constructed!

In 1947 the Chemistry Library held only an original set of Berlsteins Lexikon der Organische Chemie, shelved in a cubicle adjacent to the Chemistry Department office. Thanks to microfilms obtained usually from U.S. Army library facilities in Washington, D.C., literature search needed as a preludium to research was in hand, albeit cumbersomely. There was also the problem of justifying to the University administration the modest cost of those few unusual chemicals needed to start research!

As time passed, concerns about space, facilities, chemicals, equipment, and personnel were surmounted more and more successfully; gradually Chemistry enlarged and transferred its activities until in 1967 Chemistry was completely housed on the Main Campus.

The “S” or sigma curve which so aptly traces the growth of a biological system appears, in retrospect, to reflect the growth of Chemistry at the University of Miami. Painfully, slowly, and at first imperceptibly, growth of Chemistry commenced at the University. With the passage of time each advance paved the way for more rapid progress and a more active Department, until the initial, almost horizontal, beginning arm of the “S” started to sweep up into the vertical, fast-growth portion of the curve, reflecting a Department coping successfully and expanding mightily.

The most obvious change from 1947 to the present was that which reflected the rounding out and maturation of a Department that was initially involved only with teaching, but with the passage of time took on the further academic responsibilities of service and of research.

The most pleasing change for me personally to observe as time passed was the greater proportion of minorities and women who were in my classes and who constituted a larger number of those progressing to professional and graduate programs.
ALUMNI AND DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

WAYNE ADAMS (B.S. '74) received his MBA from Florida International University in '82 and is now teaching chemistry and physics in the Dade County School System, currently at Northwest High School.

CLAIR I. COLVIN (M.S. '61; Ph.D. '63) heads the Department of Chemistry, Georgia Southern College, Statesboro.

WALTER A. CROW (B.S. '61) has been promoted to regional sales manager for the 3M Corporation.

TRUDY DICKNEIDER (Ph.D. '79) has accepted a teaching position at the University of Scranton. She goes to the U of S from Superior Oil Co.

SUSAN WILLIG FAN (B.S. '81) and her husband, Dominick, became parents of a son on July 14, 1983, Susan recently finished her second year at Tulane Medical School.

VICTOR FISHMAN (B.S. '68) received his Ph.D. in physical-analytical chemistry with Professor Allen Bard at the University of Texas (Austin) in 1980 and is now department head of Pharmaceutical and Organic Chemistry at Radian Corporation.

JOHN M. MCGUIRE (B.S. '48; M.S. '51) is supervisory research chemist and chief of the Organic Analysis Section at the Athens Environmental Research Laboratory, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Athens, Georgia.

ANDREW J. PASZTOR, JR. (Ph.D. '76) is a research leader in the Styrene Molding Polymers Research Department of Dow Chemical, Midland, Michigan.

KATHRYN S. SCHWENZER (Ph.D. '74) was recently appointed research director at Pandex Laboratories, Mundelein, Illinois.

KENNETH D. SNELL (Ph.D. '81) and his wife Marianne became parents of their second son, Kevin, on July 31, 1983. Ken has become active politically and led a successful campaign to recall a Michigan State Senator.

Awards and Honors. The 1984 Chemistry Alumni Awards went to JONAS JOHANSSON as the outstanding professional chemistry major and to MICHAEL SCHAFFER as the outstanding premedical chemistry major. The 1984 Phi Lambda Upsilon awardee is REUBEN R. PUENDEURA, HARRY SCHULTZ, our Chairman Emeritus, was named the College of Arts & Sciences Alumni Association Outstanding Professor of 1984.

Visitors. Professor HENRY E. SCHAFFER III, of the University of California (Berkeley), was Visiting Professor of Chemistry from November to December of 1983. In 1983 he received the Leo Hendrick Baeckeland Award from the American Chemical Society and was the ACS’s 1979 awardee for Pure and Applied Chemistry.

Recent alumni visitors include ROBERT B. DAVIS (B.S. '59, M.S. '61), WALTHER ELLIS (B.S. '78; M.S. '80), ARNOLD I. EPSTEIN (B.S. '55), BRUCE FLETCHER (B.S. '81), GREGG FRIEDMAN (B.S. '81), and DENNIS RANSKI (B.S. '75).
A VIEW OF THE FUTURE
by George W. Gokel

I AM NOT A PROPHET SO what I write must be considered the thoughts of someone hopeful and enthusiastic rather than prescient. There are, it seems to me, two important points to consider in thinking about the Department's future.

The first of these is the historical stature of the Department. The University of Miami Chemistry Department has been primarily concerned with its teaching responsibilities in the past. Naturally, this is very important for a private University with a large undergraduate enrollment. Excellence in teaching will continue to be an important commitment in the future. Since this was the principal commitment within the Department, the research effort has been small in comparison. It is for this reason that the Chemistry Department is not nationally recognized as a research center, and not because they tried and failed.

A commitment to a high level of research activity is also important since this promotes an up-to-date understanding of, and an involvement with chemistry. National and international prestige derives from highly visible research programs and this enhances the University's image and desirability.

The second point concerns the University's commitment. I believe that the University of Miami administration understands that excellence in basic science research adds an important dimension to the academic environment. During the past few years, several faculty have been encouraged to and have succeeded in obtaining major grants from government agencies.

These funds will help educate graduate students and post-doctoral fellows and the publications produced will enhance the University's overall image. It is my hope that the increased productivity will lead to additional commitments from the University and I fully expect that the University of Miami Chemistry Department will, within a decade, be recognized as a strong and growing center for chemical research.