

Iowa State University


OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Interoffice Communication

Department of Chemistry
1605 Gilman Hall
Telephone - 294-7871
Telefax - 294-0105

Date: March 28, 2005

To: President Gregory Geoffroy

From: Gordon J. Miller, Professor and Chair, Department of Chemistry 

Re: Room Naming Request in Gilman Hall - the "Martha E. Russell Undergraduate Chemistry Help Center"

The faculty in the Department of Chemistry has overwhelmingly voted (25 of 30: 25 voting yes; 5 did not return the written ballot) to name the Chemistry Help Center, room 2112 Gilman, as the Martha E. Russell Undergraduate Chemistry Help Center. Martha is retiring effective May 15, 2005 from her position as Adjunct Associate Professor of Chemistry. She will continue to meet with students in our help center in the coming semesters. The Chemistry Faculty wishes to honor Martha for her dedication and service through this honor.

This individual honor for Professor Russell is particularly fitting for several reasons. Throughout a teaching career at ISU that has spanned over 45 years, Martha has devoted the bulk of her time to teaching and student advising. It is probably safe to estimate that she has taught more students in introductory courses in general chemistry and organic chemistry than any ISU faculty member. She has demonstrated truly outstanding dedication, effectiveness and boundless energy and enthusiasm as an educator and as an academic advisor to undergraduate chemistry majors. This devotion comes from her strong compassion and caring for her students. Martha has always been concerned with helping students gain the correct understanding of chemistry, appreciate the elegance and relevance of the material, and navigate through our academic labyrinth. Moreover, she has always given freely of her time outside the classroom to guide and counsel students through difficult chemical concepts. Much of her success is due to her knowledge of the subject matter coupled with her natural ability to relate to and understand people. Her nurturing and encouragement helps them tap into their undeveloped potential and makes it possible for them to achieve more than they had anticipated. Her passion and dedication to the students who have passed through her classes is unparalleled. In addition, her great experience and teaching skills have also been an important resource for other faculty members and academic advisors. She is also exceedingly generous in helping both instructors and advisors perform their duties more effectively.

Professor Russell's dedication and devotion have been key elements in the success of our undergraduate curriculum. Her performance and dedication to teaching and advising epitomizes

the highest level of excellence to which all faculty members aspire at Iowa State University. We wish to honor Martha's significant, positive, and essential contributions to undergraduate education in our department through the naming of our Chemistry Help Center.

Endorsement from the Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Prof. Martha Russell has devoted her professional career to the instruction and academic advising of numerous students in Chemistry at Iowa State University. I endorse this request by the Chemistry Department to name their Chemistry Help Center in honor of Martha.



Michael Whiteford, Dean

Enc. CV

PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

NAME MARTHA ELLEN RUSSELL
TITLE Adjunct Associate Professor
CAMPUS ADDRESS 1608C Gilman, Chemistry Department, Iowa State University
 Ames, Iowa 50011-3111
OFFICE PHONE (515) 294-7816
 e-mail martha@iastate.edu
PERSONAL DATA Born March 6, 1926, North Augusta, South Carolina
 Married June 6, 1953 to Glen A. Russell
 Children Susan Ann born 7-10-60
 June Ellen born 9-24-61
EDUCATION B. S. University of Rochester, 1945, Major: Chemistry
 M. S. University of Buffalo, 1947, Major: Organic Chemistry
 Ph.D. Purdue University, 1954, Major: Organic Chemistry

SCHOLARSHIPS, AWARDS, ETC.

1999 LAS Award. Ruth Swenson Award for Outstanding Adviser
 1998 Iowa State University Alumni Association Faculty Citation, October, 1998
 1994 LAS Award for Outstanding Teaching at the Introductory Level, May 1994
 1979 Wilkinson Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Chemistry Dept
 1951 Election to Sigma Xi
 1951-53 Ethyl Free Grant Fellowship (one of two free grant fellowships awarded by the Department at that time).

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

8/95 - Adjunct Associate Professor, Iowa State University
 9/86-7/95 Adjunct Assistant Professor, Iowa State University
 1978-6/86 Temporary Assistant Professor, Iowa State University
 1975-78 Temporary Full-time Instructor, Iowa State University — Lecturing in General and Organic chemistry
 1959-75 Part-time Instructor, Iowa State University — Assisted in General chemistry recitations and laboratories. Probably six years service overall.
 1953-57 Research Associate, General Electric Silicone Products Department, Waterford, NY
 1949-51 Graduate Teaching Assistant and Research Fellow, Chemistry Department, Purdue University
 1947-49 Research Chemist, National Aniline (Allied Chem), Buffalo, NY
 1945-47 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Chemistry Department, University of Buffalo

RECENT TEACHING ASSIGNMENTS

Spring 2003	Chem 167 (General Chemistry accelerated course for Engineers)
Fall 2002	Chem 155 Sec. A & B (General Chemistry for Engineers, First Semester)
Summer 2002	Training program for incoming TAs
Spring 2002	Chem 165 Sec. A (General Chemistry for Engineers, Second Semester)
Fall 2001	Chem 331 (Organic Chemistry, First Semester)
Summer 2001	Chem 555 (Training program for incoming TAs)
Spring 2001	Chem 331 (Organic Chemistry, First Semester)
Fall 2000	Chem 331 Sec. A & B (Organic Chemistry, First Semester)
Summer 2000	Chem 555 (Training program for incoming TAs)
Spring 2000	Chem 332 Sec. A (Organic Chemistry, Second Semester)
Fall 1999	Chem 331 Sec. A&B (Organic Chemistry, First Semester)
Spring 1999	Chem 332 Sec. A (Organic Chemistry, Second Semester)
Summer 1999	Chem 555 (Training program for incoming TAs)
Fall 1998	Chem 155 Sec. A & B (Gen. Chem for Engineers, First Semester)
Spring 1998	Chem 332 Sec. A & B (Organic Chemistry, Second Semester)
Summer 1998	Chem 555 (Training program for incoming TAs)
Fall 1998	Chem 331 Sec. A & B (Organic Chemistry, First Semester)
Summer 1998	Chem 555 (Training program for incoming TAs)
Spring 1998	Chem 332 Sec. A & B (Organic Chemistry, Second Semester)
Fall 1997	Chem 155 Sec. A & B (Gen. Chem for Engineers, First Semester)
Summer 1997	Chem 555 (Training program for incoming TAs)
Spring 1997	Chem 332 Sec. B (Organic Chemistry, Second Semester)
Fall 1996	Chem 331 Sec. A & B (Organic Chemistry, First Semester)
Summer 1996	Chem 555 (Training program for incoming TAs)
Spring 1996	Chem 332 Sec. A & B (Organic Chemistry, Second Semester)

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Iota Sigma Pi

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Departmental

Fall 1986-	Undergraduate Curriculum and Affairs Committee
Fall 1988-Spring 1989	Chemistry Department Affirmative Action Committee
Fall 1989-Spring 1990	Search Committee for General Chemistry Coordinator
Fall 1992-Spring 1995	Chairman, Ad Hoc Committee on Restructuring Undergraduate Chemistry Curriculum
Summer 1993-Spring 1995	Chairman, Committee for Preparing Proposals for Grants and Improving General Chemistry
Spring 1995-Spring 1999	Teacher Evaluation Committee for Chemistry Department
Fall 1995-June 1997	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum and Affairs Committee
June 2001-	Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum and Affairs Committee

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS (continued)

Liberal Arts and Sciences

Fall 1989-Spring 1992	Instruction Committee
Fall 1991-Spring 1992	Chairman, Instruction Committee
Spring 1993-Spring 2000	Chemistry Department Delegate, LAS Representative Assembly
Fall 1995-Spring 1999	Physical Science Delegate, Executive Committee, LAS Representative Assembly
May 1996-June 1997	Student Learning Implementation Committee
January 1997-June 1998	LAS Minority Student Service Advisory Committee

University Committees

May 1996 - June 1999	LAS Representative, Faculty Senate
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PROPOSALS AWARDED:

Co PI FIPSE Grant F/94 - F/97, The Iowa General Network Project. This grant seeks to involve faculty and students from both four-year institutions and community colleges within Iowa via the Iowa General Chemistry Network to develop and implement a new streamlined introductory chemistry curriculum of a flexible, modular design that will serve the needs of a diverse student population and improve the compatibility between 2-year and 4-year programs. The modules will incorporate relevant topics, group projects, updated teaching methods, emphasis on conceptual thinking, interactive multi-media, and exploratory lab experiments, to name a few. The proposal involves planning, development, implementation and evaluation of this process. Much of the interaction between the schools will be accomplished by use of Iowa Fiber Optics Network. It is hoped that the results will be better retention of students both in general chemistry and in other courses in the chemistry sequence. Transfer students from community colleges will arrive with a similar background as the students at the regents universities. By having interactive multi-media available to ISU students we hope to improve their understanding of general chemistry. The interaction between the community colleges, the regents universities and several private universities has been excellent. 80% of the community college general chemistry professors attended a one and a half day meeting at ISU Fall 94. There were several follow-up meetings via Iowa Fiber Optics Network. in the Spring 95. In June there was a five day workshop at ISU. Time was divided between informational lectures and working on the modules. Program Director from FIPSE was present and was impressed with the interaction between all of the participants. Two modules are about finished – one on electrochemistry and one on acid-base equilibrium.

Fall 95 a one and a half day meeting was held at Simpson College. Work was started on the next two modules - kinetics and equilibrium. Appropriate demonstrations were shown. Discussions on misconceptions and exam questions were discussed. Dr. Greenbowe got input on what type of animations they desired. Meetings were continued via Fiber Optics network. A workshop was held at St. Ambrose College at Davenport in July 1996. Gas and Stoichiometry problems were looked at. More private colleges have joined the group.

Although this grant has expired, the Iowa General Chemistry Network has kept together on a NSF Grant and regular meetings are held by Fiber Optics Network and a Workshop has been held each summer. A meeting is planned for Summer 2000.

EXTRA DUTIES (Associated with teaching)

Associate Coordinator in General Chemistry Program: With Kathy Trahanovsky heavily involved in Science Bound and Tom Greenbowe so actively involved in research and fund raising, a large amount of the actual planning and day to day operation of the General Chemistry program has been handled by me. Some of the work involved is:

Calculating number of teaching assistants required for scheduled General Chemistry courses during the registration period so that the General Chemistry staff would be aware of number of sections that must be canceled in order to add sections in General Chemistry courses with an overflow of requests.

Working with Bill Britton on submitting budgets to LAS for teaching assistants.

Working with Bill Britton on assigning the available TAs to various divisions based on speak, teach test results and past teaching performance.

Scheduling General Chemistry Teaching Assistants

Coordinating the Chem 555 schedule for Summer 1990-1996.

Helping General Chemistry hourly help learn how to make up night exam seating charts.

Helping Sally Gleason coordinate the general type of announcements for teaching assistants.

Handling designated repeat questions for undergraduate students.

Giving assistance to advisors in other fields about courses suitable for their students.

Available to Graduate Teaching Assistants for advice.

Introductory General Chemistry Courses are taught by senior staff members. Assisting instructors new to the program by acquainting them with the procedures of teaching large lecture sections, working with TAs, policies involved in supervising laboratories etc. Providing the same assistance to temporary instructors.

Assisting the recruiting and training of undergraduates teaching assistants.

UNDERGRADUATE CHEM MAJORS

Talking with prospective students and parents, both high school seniors and transfer students. Gave tours of the laboratories. Also talking with ISU students considering changing majors.

Advising Chemistry Majors assigned to me (average 15 students).