A MEMORIAL
to
WALTER HOGUE

Walter Hogue, Director of Laboratories and assistant instructor, passed away on April 13, 2004. Walt joined the Department of Chemistry at Miami in August 1969, as the first Director of Laboratories and retired from that position in December, 1990.

Walt was born on December 31, 1925 in Springfield, Ohio. Walt lived in Lima, Ohio for most of his school years and graduated from Lima South High School in 1943. He was the only child of Walter Sr. and Agnes Hogue. Since his later high school years were during the depression, his parents found work in Springfield and his grandmother stayed with him so he could graduate with his class. He enjoyed music and played alto saxophone and clarinet in both high school and college bands. He had received a number of solo and group awards. He also developed an interest in chemistry.

After Walt graduated from high school, he moved to Springfield and took summer classes at Wittenberg University. This was the time of World War II and Walt enlisted in the Navy in the fall of 1943. Walt continued his interest in chemistry in the Navy. He took advanced classes in chemistry and radio dispatching. He was assigned to a small ship as a radioman and in first aid. Walt was able to give shots to the sailors and would have pursued a career in medicine except he thought he lacked a steady hand and adequate vision.

After his two years of service to his country, Walt continued college at Wittenberg and his chemistry professors encouraged his interest in chemistry which helped him make the decision to major in chemistry. Walt met Donna Jean Bowman at Wittenberg on a blind date and they were married the year Walt graduated in the Augsburg Lutheran Church on June 25, 1949. Walt remained at Wittenberg until Donna graduated in 1950. He worked at the University as a laboratory assistant and also made use of his musical talent playing in dance bands on weekends.

Walt entered graduate school in chemistry at the University of Cincinnati in 1950 and Donna took her first teaching job in Cincinnati. They moved back to Springfield in 1952. Walt wanted to work as an industrial chemist and took a job with The Commonwealth Engineering Company of Ohio in Dayton. While there he wrote a number of patents.

Walt was a family man and he never pursued jobs in large companies because they would require him to move frequently and travel from coast to coast. He wanted to be near his children and grandchildren and was active in Auburn Lutheran Church serving on Council, as a Sunday School teacher, and Superintendent of Sunday School.

Walt's and Donna's first child, Steven, was born in December 1952, followed by daughter, Mary Ann, and another son, David.

Before arriving at Miami, Walt held positions at Hilton Davis, Monsanto, and Ace Glass Company in addition to Commonwealth Engineering. At Ace Glass, he was a traveling salesman for the Ohio region. Walt enjoyed his position as a salesman and especially his interactions with his customers which included industrial and college laboratories. One of his clients was Miami University and the Chair of the Chemistry Department, John Buckingham, persuaded Walt to apply for the Director of Laboratories position.

Walt had a keen sense of responsibility and an overall sense of professionalism. His duties included supervising the office and laboratory staff as well as student workers in the Chemistry Department. He also initiated the competitive bidding for scientific equipment throughout the science departments at Miami, a process that helped Miami to effectively use its resources. Walt was a stickler for saving Miami money. One chair commented that, "The job of chemistry chair would be unfillable without the support of Walt Hogue." His duties were so wide-ranging, they defied a concise job description.

While Walt's primary responsibility was the business side of the Chemistry Department, he truly enjoyed his experiences teaching laboratory courses and co-authored, with John Eicher, *General Chemistry for the Laboratory* and *Laboratory Investigations in Chemistry,* lab manuals that were used for many years. Walt loved to be around the students and was happiest when he taught the freshman labs. He was there to help the students anytime and told them his door was always open. Many students said he was a "father" or "grandfather" figure to them.

Walt had interests outside of Miami University. He was an amateur photographer and enjoyed trips and cruises after retirement. He was active in organizations such as the Masons, Antioch Shrine Club of Dayton, and in raising money for Children's Shrine Hospitals, especially Cincinnati Burns Hospital. On a yearly basis, Walt selflessly sold bags of Vidalia onions and tickets to the Dayton Shrine Horse Show, both to raise funds for those less fortunate than Walt. One could see why he was a success as a glass salesman.

But first and foremost, Walt was a caring human being. He was dedicated to his family, friends, and co-workers. He treated all with respect and never had a harsh word.

Walt is survived by his wife, Donna (West Chester), his sons, Dr. Steve Hogue (Fairfield) and David Hogue (Mansfield), and daughter, Mary Ann Shreve (Sardinia), and several grandchildren.

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