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# IN MEMORIAM

## WALTER F. BUCHHOLTZ 1908-1967

Dr. Walter F. Buchholtz was born on a farm near Wyoming, Iowa, on March 22, 1908. He attended Wyoming High School where he was an honor student as well as participant in athletics and music. He graduated in 1925 and then attended Iowa State University from 1925-1929. He was a member of Alpha Feta, Sigma Upsilon, Gamma Sigma Delta, Sigma Xi, and Phi Kappa Phi honorary societies. He was also a member of the Farm House Fraternity. After graduation in 1929, he continued his education in Plant Pathology under the tutelage of Dr. I. E. Melhus, receiving his M.S. degree in 1930. He spent a year at the University of Chicago and then returned to Iowa State to earn his Ph.D. degree in 1935.

His work for the next five years was in the area of root rots and seedling diseases of legumes and sugar beets. He also taught plant pathology. From 1940 to 1945 he was the first station plant pathologist at South Dakota State University. His work was varied, including extension work, teaching, plant disease surveys and research. He pioneered in the practice of using crested wheat grass as a trap for both isolating *Pythium graminicolum* from soil and for estimating disease potential.

Dr. Buchholtz went back to the Iowa State he loved in 1945 as an associate professor and taught plant pathology as well as conducting research on stone fruit diseases, root rotting organisms, sugar beet diseases, crop rotation problems and Maize Dwarf Mosaic. He was promoted to the rank of professor in 1957. He guided many graduate students who learned his careful methods of research, his analytical evaluation of data, and his preciseness in noting results and drawing conclusions. His students knew of his unwavering loyalty to Dr. Melhus, his former major professor. They in turn were loyal to him. Each of his graduate students can recount times when his help was far "above and beyond the call of duty."

Dr. Buchholtz was the steady balance wheel of the plant pathology group, and his suggestions were valued by all. His many publications give only a partial testimony to his lifetime of dedicated work in plant pathology. He was a life member of the American Society of Plant Pathologist and was president of the North Central group at the time of his death. He was also a member of the Iowa Academy of Science.

Scholarly achievement was only one part of his life. He loved sports, both as a participant and as a loyal fan. He was a strong supporter of the Cyclone teams, happy in their victories, tolerant and patient in their defeats. He loved fishing but the sport was the important part. The zeal and finesse which brought a prize fish into a net turned to a kindly smile as he released the fish for a further chance in life.

He was active in community affairs. He served as supervisor of the Ames Ground Observer Corps for several years. He served regularly as judge of elections. He was a loyal supporter of the Christian Church, active in the choir and many other activities.

Death came suddenly and all too soon on February 6, 1967, when Dr. Buchholtz was stricken with a heart attack while enroute from Wyoming, Iowa to Ames. On February 10, a whole lifetime of kindness, hard work,

accomplishment and joy in living was laid to rest at the Iowa State University cemetery. He leaves a legacy of character and strength to his wife, Ruth, four children, five grandchildren and a host of relatives, friends and colleagues.

### ROBERT R. GETCHELL 1883-1966

The death of Dr. Robert R. Getchell on November 16, 1966, terminated the career of one of Cedar Falls's most outstanding professors. The classroom was his love, and many students will remember him for his capability as a lecturer, as a demonstrator, and as one who could make chemistry come alive and move out of the textbooks and manuals into exciting experiences in the minds of his students.

Robert R. Getchell was born in Aurora, Iowa, on October 1, 1883. He graduated from Independence High School in 1902 and taught in a rural school for one year. He attended Cornell College from 1904 to 1907. He then began his chemistry teaching career with a position at Iowa State University, as an instructor. The year 1909 marked the beginning of his long tenure at the State College of Iowa, now the University of Northern Iowa, for he joined the faculty as an instructor in chemistry. While an instructor he completed the B.A. degree which he received in 1911. He earned his master's degree in 1920 and his Ph.D. in 1930 from the University of Wisconsin. He became Emeritus Professor in 1949, but continued to teach and remain active in writing and in other professional activities for a number of years.

Dr. Getchell was an influential and respected member of the faculty. He served on nearly every faculty committee both as member and chairman. It would be impossible to describe all of the contributions he made to the educational program of the college. A few may serve as examples. He was editor of the Science Bulletin that was distributed regularly to elementary and secondary school science teachers in the state of Iowa. This publication gave classroom teachers suggestions in content and teaching techniques. When Iowa State Teachers College in 1942 first "went on the air" with regular radio programs, Dr. Getchell was among the first to prepare and present programs in science. For twenty years he was one of a panel that answered questions sent in by listeners for the weekly program called "Ask the Scientist."

He was a member of a number of honorary and professional organizations, including Sigma Xi, Phi Lambda Upsilon, Lambda Delta Lambda. He held offices in most of the organizations to which he belonged. He was president of the Iowa Academy of Science in 1954-55. His capability as an author is evidenced by the widespread usage of textbooks in organic chemistry and physical sciences which he either authored singly or in collaboration with others.

Dr. Getchell was not only college-centered in his interest and efforts. The community of Cedar Falls benefitted from his talents as he actively participated in the Lions Club, Arcturus club, and was president of the Cedar Falls Savings and Loan Association for many years and finally chairman of the board.

Those privileged to have known Dr. Robert Getchell remember him as an outstanding teacher, a capable scientist, and an understanding friend.

**JOSEPH C. GILMAN**  
**1890-1966**

The quiet wisdom, the sparkling flash of wit, the total lack of affectation are the things for which Joseph C. Gilman will always be remembered. He was born on March 23, 1890, in Hastings, Nebraska. He attended the University of Wisconsin and received his bachelor's degree in 1912 and his master's degree in 1914. He completed the work for the Ph.D. in Plant Pathology at Washington University (St. Louis) in 1915 where he studied under a Lackland Fellowship in the Shaw School of Botany.

Dr. Gilman was professor of biology at Ripon College, Wisconsin, for three years prior to joining the staff at Iowa State University in 1918 as an assistant plant pathologist in the Agricultural Experiment Station. He was promoted to assistant professor of botany department during the academic year of 1946-47. He was the recipient of the Iowa State Faculty citation in 1958. Dr. Gilman considered his contacts with students, either on the formal classroom basis or during a relaxed discussion in his office, to be his most significant and lasting contribution. He was not only extremely knowledgeable in his professional area, but had a broad background of interests and information, a flair for the appropriately phrased question, and a keen respect for the individuality of each person with whom he came in contact.

Dr. Gilman was active in many aspects of the development of Iowa State University. He was a charter member of the Osborne Research Club, served as a member of the University Library Committee, and was editor of the Iowa State Journal of Science from 1940 to 1948. One of Dr. Gilman's perennial interests was the development of the Iowa Academy of Science. He served that organization as secretary, as secretary-treasurer for nine years, as vice-president, and as president (1945-46). He was a member of several professional societies and honoraries, and was especially influential in the affairs of the Mycological Society of America as a council member, as secretary-treasurer, as vice-president, and as president.

His fifty or more publications indicate his diverse research interests in the activities of the fungi. With his students, he investigated the effect of fungi in the deterioration of stored corn, catalogued the plant parasitic fungi of Iowa, surveyed the fungi associated with tree cankers in Iowa, and studied various aspects of the Ascomycetes of Iowa. His interest in the soil fungi resulted in the book, "A Manual of Soil Fungi."

Following his retirement at Iowa State University, he spent the 1962-63 Academic year as lecturer in Mycology and Plant Pathology in the Botany department of Southern Illinois University. He passed away at Ames on December 24, 1966, several hours after suffering a heart attack. He is survived by his wife, a son, a daughter, and eight grandchildren.

**ALVAH R. LAUER**  
**1896-1967**

The death of Dr. Alvah R. Lauer on February 23, 1967, in Santa Monica California, terminated a long and distinguished service to Iowa State University, the State of Iowa, and the nation.

Alvah Lauer was born in Orient, Iowa, February 3, 1896. He attended Bethany College in Lindsborg, Kansas, where he received a Bachelor of

Music degree in 1921. From 1921 to 1924 he taught at McPherson College, McPherson, Kansas, and in 1924 he received a Bachelor of Arts degree from that college. He then attended the University of Iowa, receiving a Master of Arts degree in 1925. Following graduation he joined the staff at Iowa State University as an instructor in psychology. He continued his education while teaching, and received his Master of Science degree from Iowa State University in 1928. In 1928 to 1929 he was an instructor at Ohio State University and received his Ph.D. from there in 1929. Dr. Lauer returned to Iowa State University where he was promoted to the rank of associate professor in 1930, and professor in 1938.

Dr. Lauer was a pioneer in the research area of predicting accident involvement with psychological measures. About 1937, the Driving Research Laboratory was founded at Iowa State University under his direction. In 1938 driver education and safety courses were taught for the first time at Iowa State. Together with his students and colleagues, he was responsible for the release of about 200 research papers, most of which were concerned with the human element in safe driving. Dr. Lauer was one of the world's outstanding authorities on problems relating to the psychological and psychophysical aspects of automobile driving.

He was a fellow of the Distinguished Service Foundation of Optometry, and a National Research Council fellow in the Division of Anthropology and Psychology. He was also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American, Midwest and Iowa Psychological Associations, Sigma Xi, Institute of Traffic Engineers, and the Iowa and California Optometric Associations. He served as president of the Iowa Academy of Science in 1952-53., and was a past president of the Iowa Chapter of the American Association of University Professors.

Dr. Lauer often said, "My one ambition has been to make myself master in my field." His achievements of this ambition is well attested to by his high scientific achievement and world wide recognition.

After retiring, he with his wife went to live in Santa Monica, California to be near their daughter Gloria Grace and her family.

### HARRY T. MUHLY 1916-1966

At an early age of 50, death suddenly came to one of Iowa's noted mathematician, Dr. Harry T. Muhly, chairman of the Department of Mathematics at the University of Iowa. During the Christmas vacation of 1966. he suffered a fatal heart attack.

Harry Muhly was born in Baltimore, Maryland, on October 10, 1916. He attended John Hopkins University, and while doing his graduate work, he was a junior instructor in mathematics. He received his Ph.D. degree in 1940. The following year he was a National Research Fellow at Princeton, New Jersey. In 1941 Dr. Muhly joined the faculty of the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland as a mathematics instructor. After five years he was promoted to assistant professor, and a year later to associate professor. During the academic year of 1947-48 he was a research fellow at Harvard University after which he returned to Annapolis. In 1950 he came to the University of Iowa as professor of mathematics, and the last few years of his life he served as chairman of that Department.

Dr. Muhly was very active in his field of endeavor as indicated by the

numerous articles he had published. He was also the author of three textbooks; "Plane and Spherical Trigonometry," "Fundamental Concepts of Mathematics," and "Elementary Abstract Algebra."

Dr. Muhly was a member of the American Mathematical Society, London Mathematical Society, Societè Math. de France, and Mathematical Association of America of which he was on the Board of Governors from 1958 to 1961. He was a member of the Iowa Academy of Science.

Dr. Muhly is survived by his wife, Isabel, and three children.