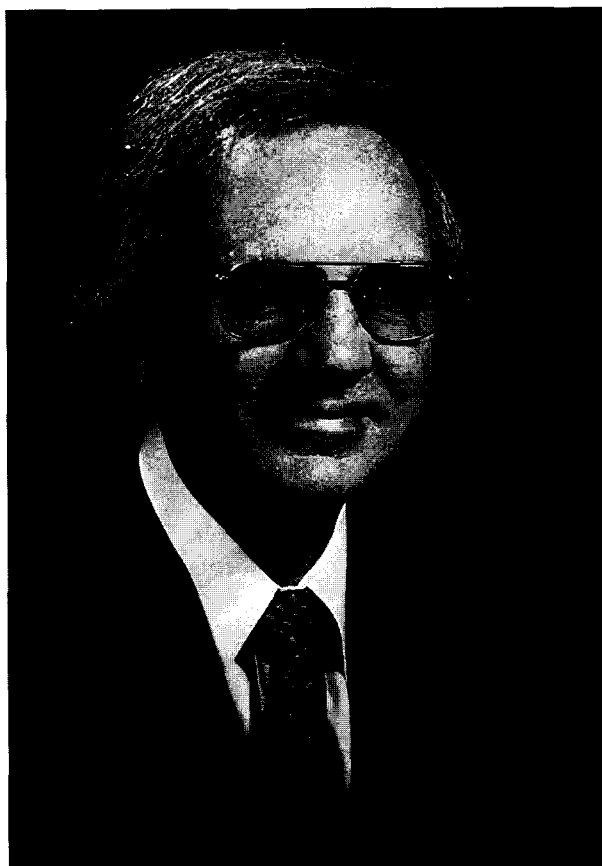


Introduction

In celebration of the 65th birthday of Professor Marvin D. Rausch



Professor Marvin Rausch, or simply “Marv” to the vast majority of the organometallic community, took his BS and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Kansas, completing his doctoral studies in organic chemistry in 1955. Marv joined the US Air Force in 1955 and had the good fortune to be assigned to serve as a Research Projects Officer at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio arriving there during a period of active Air Force interest in organosilicon and organometallic, particularly ferrocene, chemistry. Marv became active in this work and represented the Air Force at one of the very early Gordon Conferences devoted to organometallic chemistry. There he met a rising young German professor named E.O. Fischer who invited Marv to spend some time in his laboratories in München.

In 1957 Marv was awarded an NSF Postdoctoral Fellowship and traveled to München as Prof. Fischer’s second post-doctoral associate, Prof. Dietmar Seyferth being the first. This was, of course, a period of intense activity in the Fischer laboratories when München was one of the great cradles of organometallic chemistry. During this period Marv worked alongside fellow students who were destined to become the leaders of the next generation of organometallic chemistry in Germany. Marv’s work on the synthesis of osmocene and electrophilic substitution chemistry of the VIII metallocenes set his career direction, and his growing affection for Prof. Fischer led to several extended visits to Germany over his career. The German visit also marked the beginning of the strongly international flavor of

Marv's career which has ultimately resulted in collaborations with colleagues in all corners of the world.

Marv returned from Germany and joined the Central Research Department of Monsanto where he participated in the discovery of the cyclooctatetraene derivatives of iron carbonyl, and in the synthesis of pentafluorophenyl derivatives of transition metals (also prepared at this time by Prof. Gordon Stone). Although Marv's experience at Monsanto was rewarding, and gave him insight into industrial chemistry that continues to be a component of his research, the attraction of an academic career was attractive, and an invitation by his Alma Mater, University of Kansas, to return as a Visiting Professor convinced him that his future lay in academic science.

In September, 1963, Marv joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, MA, becoming Full Professor in 1968. The University was at that time a little-known institution, and Marv arrived at the moment of its expansion into a major research university. It is fair to say that the University owes much of its current stature to the reputation that Marv has built for its Chemistry Department.

Marv has been active in the service of organometallic chemistry throughout his career. He was one of the first Chairmen of the Organometallic Subdivision of the American Chemical Society's Division of Inorganic Chemistry. He has been a prime mover of the International Conferences on Organometallic Chemistry since their inception in 1963, and hosted the Sixth ICOMC in Amherst in 1963. He was elected Permanent International Secretary of the ICOMC in 1988.

Marv has served on several editorial boards including a long-term membership on the board of the *Journal of Organometallic Chemistry*. He was the Guest Editor of the Mond Centennial volume in 1990.

Marv has been a Visiting Professor and Lecturer for the Japan Society for Promotion of Science and an invited speaker at the China-Japan-USA Seminars on Organometallic Chemistry. He returned to Germany in 1977, 1984, and 1990 with awards from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and worked in the laborato-

ries of both Prof. Fischer in München and Prof. Max Herberhold in Bayreuth. While with Prof. Herberhold he worked with then graduate student, Helmut Alt, and invited him to come to Amherst for a post-doctoral visit. The resulting relationship between Amherst and Professors Herberhold and Alt at Bayreuth has been productive ever since.

Over his career, Marv has been instrumental in discovering or developing the chemistry of numerous classes of organometallic compounds including the first fulvalene derivatives of transition metals, the formation and structures of mixed sandwich compounds such as $(C_5H_5)Ni(C_3Ph_3)$, $(C_5H_5)Co(C_4Ar_4)$, and $(C_5H_5)Ti(C_7H_7)$, photochemistry of transition metal alkyl, aryl and carbene compounds, synthesis and chemistry of vinylcyclopentadiene and its transition metal derivatives, and numerous examples of ring-functionalized organometallic compounds. Marv continues to be active in chemistry as evidenced by his recent collaboration with Prof. Jimmy Chien of the University of Massachusetts that resulted in fundamental discoveries in the use of Group IV metallocenes for the polymerization of alpha-olefins.

For those who have visited Marv and his lovely wife, Jane, in Amherst know of their warm hospitality and Marv's passionate involvement with mineralogy, which Marv describes as "Nature's Inorganic Natural Products." Marv's collection of minerals is rapidly becoming one of the premier private collections in the world.

Over his career Marv has mentored 37 doctoral students and 14 masters students. In addition, Marv's infectious optimism, his deep curiosity about nature, penetrating understanding of chemistry, and his obvious joy of life has been an inspiration to many students, friends and colleagues. We all join in wishing him a very Happy Birthday and look forward to sharing many more exciting years of science with him in the future.

With deep affection and respect

Tom Bitterwolf
Professor of Chemistry
University of Idaho