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University of Dayton Department of Chemical Engineering Receives Accreditation

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University of Dayton announced today it has received accreditation for its Department of Chemical Engineering.

Father Raymond A. Roesch, S.M., U.D. president, said the accreditation came from the Engineers’ Council for Professional Development (ECPD), the agency charged with accrediting curriculum in all engineering schools in the country.

UD has had a chemical engineering department since 1910, but because it lacked adequate facilities, accreditation had never been sought. Once Wohlleben Hall was built with its up-to-the-minute facilities for that department, the University asked for an inspection by the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE), one of the bodies of the ECPD.

That examination was made last spring. The accreditation came at the group’s annual fall meeting.

The chemical engineering department was established by Bro. William J. "Doc" Wohlleben soon after returning to Dayton from Fribourg, Switzerland, where he was awarded his doctorate in chemistry. The erection of the building (named in his honor) in 1957 and now the accreditation of the chemical engineering department represent the fulfillment of two of his fondest dreams.

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The department has had only two chairmen in its almost 50-year history.
Doc Wohlleben retired in 1954 and Dr. Robert E. Wilson was named to head the
department. Dr. Wilson continued an upgrading of the curriculum established
by Doc Wohlleben and brought the department to its present level.

The first engineering graduate at UD was in chemical engineering. In
1914, degrees were awarded Leon Anderson and Lawrence E. Strattner, both Day-
tonians. Three were also awarded degrees in electrical engineering in that
year. Anderson, now in California, is retired. He had been a plant super-
intendent of several of Atlas Powder Company's plants around the country.
Strattner retired last year as vice president of the West Virginia Pulp and
Paper Company, Mechanicville, N.Y.

The new accreditation follows closely behind the approval of the chemistry
department by the American Chemical Society. In both cases, it was the fac-
cilities of the new Wohlleben Hall, made possible through the public subscrip-
tion campaign of 1956, which figured prominently in the recognition of the de-
partments.

Accreditation of University of Dayton's departments of civil, electrical and
mechanical engineering was renewed at the same time chemical engineering re-
ceived its approval.

The renewals followed inspections of these three curricula recently.

The Engineers' Council for Professional Development originally accredited
those three departments in 1951.