

National academy honors von Hippel

Prof flunked first chemistry exam

By MELODY WARD
Of the Emerald

Peter von Hippel, University chemistry and biology professor, flunked his first college chemistry test. But he took heart, studied harder and became a member of the prestigious National Academy of Sciences.

"The most creative people and those who get straight A's aren't always the same ones," von Hippel remarks in reference to his early bouts with college-level chemistry.

Von Hippel was recently elected to the academy for his research on how genes are controlled.

"The idea is that many of the control circuits and processes might be analogous to those in higher organisms," he explains.

Protein molecules "turn genes on and off" at different stages of cell development, von Hippel says. His research focuses on how specific parts of the DNA code, which is expressed as proteins, are recognized by various proteins within the cell.

He adds that details affecting viruses and bacteria presently studied may be directly applied to human disorders such as cancer, once the systems and processes are understood.

Von Hippel says his research is actually



Photo by Alan Auyeung

University chemistry professor Peter von Hippel explains the research on gene control which won him recognition by the National Academy of Sciences. "The most creative people and those who get straight A's aren't always the same ones," he says, referring to an F grade on his first college-level chemistry test.

the result of combined efforts.

"It's the work of a research group of graduate students, post-doctoral fellows, a few undergrads and technicians," he says.

"The PhD candidates and post-docs do most of the actual bench research," he says. "It's a real collaborative enterprise. When someone is recognized this way (by the academy) it really is the recognition of several persons over a period of years."

Von Hippel thinks the most effective teachers are those who do the most research because they are excited about the field.

"Good science is often looking back at the really basic questions," he observes. "The act of teaching makes me a better researcher — you are constantly being led to question what you think you understand by the students."

Though "the attention of research profs is divided," von Hippel hopes the advantages of a research-intensive school outweigh the disadvantages.

Von Hippel's election to the National Academy of Sciences marks the sixth from the University and the seventh from this state.

In his words, it is "about the highest scientific award an American scientist can get, next to the Nobel prize."

Mothers Club increases scholarship fund

By SUE DeWERFF
Of the Emerald

The University Mothers Club is selling cookbooks to raise funds for scholarships and other projects at the University.

This year, scholarships will be presented to sophomores, juniors and seniors at a campaign and strawberry brunch May 20 in Gerlinger Hall. The brunch is sponsored by the Mothers Club in connection with Parents Weekend.

According to Helen Jones, chair of the scholarship committee for the Mothers Club, 38 entries were received this year for scholarships, each in the amount

of \$500. Recipients of the scholarships were chosen by the committee according to their overall grade point average, community services, involvement in their major, professional recommendations, and financial needs.

The Golda Parker Wickham award, which is the largest scholarship given by the Mothers Club, entitles the recipient to a full year of paid tuition and fees at the University.

A total of \$9,000 was earned by the club during the University Centennial Year project to be used for the nine new scholarships recently added to the existing six

given by the club, and for the new projects involving the purchase of new equipment and books for different departments.

A fundraising activity spon-

sored by the club is a student street fair held each fall during the day of registration. Dishes, small furniture items, household goods and other items are sold to help

students set up their apartments at reasonable costs.

The merchandise is donated by local stores throughout the community to the Mothers Club.

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