Professors Ricker Retires
After 28 Years at Tulane

Prof. Cronvich New Department Head

Professor C. W. Ricker, who has headed the department of electrical engineering at Tulane for the past 28 years, is retiring June 30. Professor James A. Cronvich, a member of the electrical faculty since 1938, has been appointed new department head. His appointment is effective July 1.

Professor Ricker, who is a native of Illinois but has lived in Kansas, California, Massachusetts and North Carolina, said he has been in New Orleans so long he considers the city his home and plans to live here after his retirement “at least for a while.”

Professor Ricker started his teaching career as an instructor at MIT in 1916. He left there in 1926 to join the faculty of North Carolina State college where he became a full professor. Two years later he joined Tulane as professor in charge of electrical engineering. At that time electrical and mechanical were a joint department. When they were separated in 1937 Professor Ricker became head of the electrical engineering department.

A graduate of MIT, he holds a master of science degree from that university and a master of electrical engineering degree from Harvard.

When Professor Ricker first joined Tulane the electrical staff consisted of himself, another instructor and two student assistants. The department reached its peak right after the war when there were ten full time

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THE TULANE ENGINEER

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Past, Present and Future
by Bernard A. Grehan

As the Society of Tulane Engineers embarks on its fifth year of operations it would seem a brief review as well as a look ahead might be in order.

Your Society was organized in 1951 for the prime purpose of bringing together the School of Engineering at Tulane and its Alumni, for their mutual benefit. Being a private institution, the School must depend heavily on the active interest, cooperation and assistance of its graduates if it is to continue to serve them and the Community as a leading Engineering Educational Institution. It is the purpose of the Society to serve as a medium to bring about this mutual assistance.

In order to reach such an objective, your Society must first be one truly representative of all Tulane Engineering Alumni. As it has been in the past, this continues to be one of the foremost goals of the Society in 1956.

Since 1951, the membership has steadily increased each year, and in 1955 had reached 440 active members. It is hoped that this growth will continue until it embraces all of the approximately 2700 Tulane Engineers.

Join the Society

All Engineering graduates and former students to join the Society of Tulane Engineers. To date our membership for 1955-56 is about 400 out of a potential 2,700 alumni. With your interest and co-operation we can readily accomplish our aims—so join now. For your convenience, membership application is printed herein. Complete it and mail it in NOW!

ANNUAL DUES $2.00

SOCIETY OF TULANE ENGINEERS

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TULANE PLACEMENT OFFICE GIVES EMPLOYMENT SERVICE

The Tulane Placement Office has done a unique and most commendable job the last few years of placing engineering and other graduates in desirable positions. The work of this relatively new University office is little known to most alumni and Mr. Johnie Branch, A ’48, G ’50, Placement Officer, at our request, has prepared the following article on the Placement Office to fill in engineering graduates on the important function this office has at Tulane.

The Tulane Placement Office began operation in July, 1950, occupying temporary offices complete with interviewing space and placement literature exhibits at 23 McAlister Place. It will be housed permanently in the University Center which will be completed in 1957. The purpose of the Placement Office is to coordinate all placement activities in the University, exclusive of the School of Business Administration, and to perform the three-fold function of: (1) helping undergraduates find part-time jobs on and off-campus in order to attend Tulane; (2) helping current graduates and returning veterans make contacts with prospective employers for career positions; and, (3) helping alumni effect changes in positions where necessary. This service has not been used by the alumni to a noticeable extent. Nevertheless numerous requests are made by prospective employers to have alumni contact them in the event they wish to make a change. The Placement Office is prepared to serve as a central clearing house for such matters by registering alumni for assistance and listing available positions reported by employers.

Although the Placement Office serves all schools and colleges in the University system except Business Administration, students in the School of Engineering and the Chemistry, Mathematics, and Physics Departments of the College of Arts and Sciences are receiving the most attention because of the intense need for graduates with such academic training. This trend began in the latter part of 1950 and has developed to the point where visits to the campus for recruiting purposes have nearly trebled in number. It is estimated that before the close of the Spring semester more than 125 industrial and governmental organizations will have confirmed interviewing dates with the Placement Officer in an effort to contact less than 100 available engineering and scientific students graduating in June, 1956. Prospective applicants have a wide range of opportunities in production, sales and research from which to choose. Each applicant attending interviews regularly will receive approximately 10 to 12 offers of positions at beginning salaries of around $400.00 per month or better. Most every concern makes offers to graduates regardless of impending service in the armed forces, and to juniors for summer employment, for the purpose of interesting them in future employment. Many large companies which formerly recruited only engineering and scientific graduates are now beginning to look with interest on liberal arts prospects with the idea of taking a select number into special training programs designed for turning out qualified technical and administrative personnel.

Salute To D.B.H. Chaffe

Engineering alumni are justifiably proud of D. B. H. Chaffe, Jr., M. and E. 1912, president of the Alumni Association, Mr. Chaffe was elected at Homecoming, 1956, after serving as first vice president of the association. He is also a member of the Tulane Board of Visitors.

News of Engineering Alumni

The Tulane Engineer aims to report news of all engineering alumni and does not wish to confine publication articles only to school news. In response to a request for news about activities of engineering alumni, R. P. Farnsworth and Co., Inc., sent us news that several Tulane engineering grads have become officers of that company. Included are George S. Farnsworth, E '25, president of the firm, (and also a member of the Tulane Board of Administrators); Philip R. Farnsworth, Arch '36, executive vice-president of the firm; Louis K. Good, E '34, vice president in charge of purchasing and subcontracting for all projects in the city area; Henry B. Shepard, E '37, vice president in charge of heavy equipment and construction division; William H. Bohne, E '38, vice president in charge of the company's New York office; and John F. Manson, E '30, vice president in charge of the housing division.

Bernard Grehan—
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the Associates Committee, Tulane Development Program.

Following his graduation from Tulane in 1942, Mr. Grehan served four years active duty in the US Navy. He served on destroyers in the Atlantic and Pacific Theatres and received the Bronze Star for service at Okinawa.

After leaving the service in 1946 with the rank of lieutenant commander he returned to New Orleans and joined the George J. Glover Co. as field engineer. In 1947 he did structural design work and draughting on the expansion project of the Freeport Sulphur Co., Grand Ecaille Plant. Since joining B. M. Dornblatt and Associates, Inc., he has worked on several design projects in the area, including structural design of the Texaco Building, the tallest all-welded steel frame building in the area.

Mr. Grehan is a registered professional engineer in Louisiana and Pennsylvania and is an associate member of the American Society of Chemical Engineers (second vice president of the Louisiana section), and a member of the Louisiana Engineering Society, the Engineers' Club, the American Concrete Institute, the American Institute of Management, International House, the Bureau of Governmental Research and the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

REPORT FROM DEAN JOHNSON

This publication already has a story on the retirement of Professor Ricker. I would like to add that we at Tulane shall miss his presence keenly. I know that a host of friends and former students among the alumni share my own profound gratitude for his unselfish and tireless devotion to Tulane, distinguished by the excellence of his teaching and administration. We wish him Godspeed. He will be succeeded by his colleague and former student, Professor James A. Cronvich.

The demand for engineers continues unabated. Seniors of the graduating class of 1956 have accepted offers which average about $430 per month. Offers as high as $500 have not been unusual and less than two weeks ago two graduating seniors accepted positions at $600 per month in the Greater New Orleans area. All of these are for engineering graduates without significant previous engineering experience.

Engineering schools are faced with an increasingly critical problem of maintaining faculties.

The faculty of the School during the past five years has numbered about 27 full-time members. Since the spring of 1951 there have been 16 resignations from this faculty. Of these number 8 four from the professions ranging from assistant professor to full professor. All but (Continued on Page 4)

where he studied on a Genrado Trust Fellowship.

He joined the Tulane faculty in 1938 and has been there ever since except for the period in 1941-1942 when he worked on the Third Locks project of the Panama Canal. He was engaged in preliminary testing and specifications for electrical equipment for the project.

Professor Cronvich also serves as professor of biophysics in the department of medicine, Tulane medical school. His work includes development of equipment and theoretical studies in the department's cardiovascular research program.

Professor Cronvich, who is a graduate of Jesuit high school, is married to the former Mary Silberberg of St. Louis. They have two children, Jimmy, 3, and Mary Claire, 2.
one of this group resigned to enter industry. The one exception resigned to pursue graduate study leading to an advanced degree and later entered industry after obtaining the degree.

Although some increase in total engineering enrollment at Tulane is anticipated, especially in the junior and senior years, the freshman classes in the past two years have taxed the facilities of the School to capacity. The Board of Administrators has approved the College Entrance Examination Board aptitude tests as a requirement of admission to the undergraduate divisions beginning with the class entering in September, 1957. These are not tests which an applicant for admission will pass or fail, but are means of securing additional information regarding a student's aptitudes and potentialities to be used in conjunction with his high school record and other pertinent data. They are expected to improve the process of selecting well-qualified students and to increase the percentage of students who successfully complete the requirements for the bachelor's degrees.

In October, 1956 there were 228 students classified as freshmen in the School of Engineering and 64 classified as seniors with a total enrollment of 524 undergraduate students. With better control and selection of entering students, the senior class could be almost doubled, the freshman class enrollment set at about 200 students, and the total enrollment in engineering increased almost to 600 students. This distribution would make maximum use of present physical facilities and still be consistent with the highest standard for classroom and laboratory teaching.

Although the major problem confronting the School in the next decade will be concerned with faculty, there are other matters which will demand increasing attention such as development of the graduate program, improvements in curricula and teaching methods, and acquisition of equipment for replacement and expansion in present laboratories. Space permits only mere mention of these aspects. It is hoped that there will be an opportunity in the near future for further discussion.

Past, Present, Future—
(Continued from Page 2)
*Engineering Graduates. Anyone who has not yet done so please fill in the registration form and send it in with your $2.00 dues for 1956.*

Other specific objectives toward which the Society has been and is working are:

1. To inform the members of the progress, activities and needs of the School of Engineering.

That is the function of the publication.

In the past the "Tulane Engineer" has done an excellent job of keeping the Alumni informed of Tulane progress and activities and this year, in the capable hands of Publication Chairman, John Martinez, an even better job can be expected.

It is planned to again publish a spring and fall issue, and any of the members who know of items that would be of interest to the Engineering Alumni, please pass them on to John for the next issue.

2. To provide ways and means of acquiring equipment or services for specific projects.

In 1954 the Society acquired for the Tulane Engineering Research Institute certain equipment necessary to a project in Chemical Engineering for the Oak Ridge Natural Laboratories.

In 1953 the Prestressed Concrete Research Project sponsored by the Society was completed. The full scale loading platform built by the Society and donated to the university in conjunction with this project has subsequently been utilized for several other research projects. At present a project is underway under the direction of Prof. Walter E. Blessey investigating the pre-stressing of lightweight aggregate concrete.

The Society is currently cooperating with the Tulane Engineering Research Institute and attempting to bring to them research projects. Any alumnus connected with industry, government, or other organization which might be interested in the sponsorship of specific research projects could assist in their activity by making known the facilities available in this field at Tulane.

3. To Provide an Advisory group for study and consultation with the Dean and Faculty on matters which might lead to the betterment of the School.

The Advisory Committee of your Society has been actively engaged since 1954 in a study of the Engineering School in general, and curriculum in particular. The report of the Committee in 1954 has been distributed and studied by the faculty and administration. This has brought forth certain comments and other ideas which has been material for further study by the present Advisory Committee.

Some of the suggestions included in the report have already been included and incorporated in the Curriculum. The work of this Committee has proven stimulating to both the School and the Committee, and it is expected that this activity of our School will continue to function and work toward the betterment of the Tulane Engineering School.

Generally speaking, we can look back on five years of sound constructive activity pointing in the direction of our objective, and with the increased strength of a steadily growing membership of actively interested alumni, the horizon ahead presents unlimited opportunities for use to expand as an ever increasing source of benefit to the Tulane School of Engineering as well as to ourselves and the Community.

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Student Civils Tops in South

Congratulations to the Tulane Student Chapter, American Society of Civil Engineers, for their selection as first of 27 chapters in the Southern Region.

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