

A LETTER TO CHEMICAL ENGINEERING SENIORS

Should you go to graduate school?

Through this special issue on graduate education, **Chemical Engineering Education** invites you to consider graduate school as an opportunity to further your professional development. We believe that you will find that graduate work is an exciting and intellectually satisfying experience that greatly enhances your ability to obtain responsible and challenging positions in industry and teaching. We also feel that graduate study can provide you with insurance against the increasing danger of technical obsolescence. Furthermore, we believe that graduate research work under the guidance of an inspiring and interested faculty member will be important in your growth toward confidence, independence, and maturity.

What is taught in graduate school?

In order to familiarize you with the content of some of the areas of graduate chemical engineering we are including in this issue articles describing graduate courses that have been taught by professors who have specialized in these fields. In doing so we wish to make clear the following: 1) that there is some variation in the content of individual graduate courses in the same area as taught at various schools (e.g., many schools teach transport phenomena sequences, while others teach individual courses in fluid mechanics, heat transfer, and mass transfer), 2) that we have not included **all** of the areas in which graduate courses are taught (e.g., we have not included a design course, *per se*), and 3) that the professors who have written articles for us are by no means the only authorities in those fields, nor are their departments the only departments which emphasize that particular area of study.

What is chemical engineering research?

We are dedicating this graduate education issue to an outstanding chemical engineering researcher and teacher: the late Allan P. Colburn. Although Dr. Colburn's career included work in education, industry, and government, he is best known among educators for his pioneering research in many areas of chemical engineering. This research, while based on fundamentals, was directed toward the ultimate attainment of an engineering answer, usually in the form of the many Col-

burn equations or correlations that are still used by practicing engineers. As an example of someone to emulate in your own graduate career, we urge you to read the article by Professor Olaf Hougen on Allan Colburn's activities as a graduate student. (Incidentally Professor Olaf Hougen was himself featured by **CEE** (Summer 1968) and is also worthy of emulation).

Where should you go to graduate school?

It is common for a student to broaden himself by doing graduate work at an institution other than the one from which he receives his bachelor's degree. Fortunately there are many very fine chemical engineering departments in the United States, each of which has its own "personality" with special emphases and distinctive strengths. For example, in choosing a graduate school you might first consider which school is most suitable for your own future plans to teach or go into industry. Or if you have a specific research project in mind, you might want to attend a university which emphasizes that area and where a prominent specialist is a member of the faculty. On the other hand if you are unsure of your field of research, you might consider a department that has a large faculty with widely diversified interests so as to ensure for yourself a wide choice of projects. Or you might prefer the atmosphere of a department with a small enrollment of graduate students. In any case, we suggest that you begin by writing the schools that have provided information on their graduate programs in the back of this issue. You will probably also wish to seek advice from members of the faculty at your own school.

But wherever you decide to go, we hope that you make the decision to continue your education in graduate school.

Sincerely,

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NOTE TO DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN—Additional copies of this Graduate Education Issue are available at no charge (while supply lasts) to your seniors who are interested in graduate work. Please write the Editor at the above address, stating the number of copies needed.