



Chemical Engineering

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Fall 2003

This newsletter is a special edition, dedicated to our retiring staff members, Shirley Kelly, Nancy Krell and Peggy-Jo Thran. Shirley, Nancy and Peggy have provided exceptional service to the university and the department for a combined total of 100 years. They have worked with eight chairmen, including Drs. R. W. Fahien, R. D. Walker, J. Biery, J. O'Connell, A. Fricke, D. O. Shah, T.J. Anderson and currently S. Svoronos.

Each of them has worked in various positions over the years. Shirley has served as the department's academic advising assistant for the past several years, helping students with course scheduling and other

academic issues. Nancy is currently the payroll and personnel assistant for the department so her main responsibility is to maintain the payroll records, but she performs many other services as well. Peggy-Jo's official title is administrative assistant, a position that requires her to manage numerous departmental activities. However, her true role in the department can be best understood by reading the sign on her office wall, bought for her by Spyros Svoronos. It reads, "Attention! Do you want to speak to the man in charge, or to the woman that knows what's going on?"

Shirley, Nancy and Peggy have been an important part of our department for many years. We are fortunate to have had their service and friendship for so long, and we will miss them when they go. We extend a warm farewell and wish them a happy retirement. Their plans for retirement are given in their own words on the next page.

The department is planning a dinner reception honoring our staff on December 6 at the Reitz Union Ballroom. At the reception, we plan to present our staff with messages and gifts



left to right: Nancy Krell, Shirley Kelly, Peggy-Jo Thran

from the department and alumni. If anyone would like to send a message of appreciation or a gift check, please make them out to the individual staff member and send them in an envelope to:

Department of Chemical Engineering
c/o Ms. Janice Harris
P.O. Box 116005
University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611-6005

If you would like to send your messages electronically to a retiree, please email retirement@che.ufl.edu and include the name of the person to whom your message should go. We will print out all of the messages and present them to the appropriate person at the retirement party. We will also be updating the alumni.che.ufl.edu website to contain this newsletter along with updated photos from the reception.

Nancy Krell

Nancy joined the Chemical Engineering department over 25 years ago as an assistant to Dr. Shah. In her current position as payroll administrator she has come to interact with many students of various backgrounds. Each new student, she says, brings a part of their world with them and it is interesting to learn their way of life. Nancy is a great Gator fan and has organized the ChemE football block seating. She has also worked with the AIChE student chapter in fund-raising events and has been the United Way coordinator for our department since the 1980s. Nancy has great plans for her retirement. She and John will continue riding on their Harleys (see photo), be involved with the Hogtown Pool league, visit the 12 states that she has not yet seen and keep track of the activities of three daughters and seven grandchildren.



Peggy-Jo Thran

Upon her retirement, after 38 years of faithful and very enjoyable positions with the Chemical Engineering department, Peggy-Jo's interests will be working around her beautiful home on Lake Santa Fe, relaxing, and reading. She will also be found boating and swimming in the lake with her friends, an activity that she loves. She has a large boat in Palatka on the St. Johns on which she will be able to live aboard, with her best friend, for days at a time. They plan to take the boat to every Florida-Georgia football game and stay on the boat for four or five days in Jacksonville.



Peggy-Jo is also a member of the Single Action Shooting Society and can be found shooting at the Cowboy Action Shooting matches in the area as well as across the country. She practices at the Palatka and Bradford County gun ranges and has become an exceptional shot (see photo). Peggy plans to travel to California and also to go overseas to visit the English countryside. Her family lives in Georgia, North Carolina and Florida and many more visits are planned. Peggy-Jo will spend time riding the motorcycle and will be doing much more socializing with all of her long-term friends in the Melrose area.

Send Farewell Messages

You can send your farewell messages by email to retirement@che.ufl.edu. Please include the name of the person your message should be delivered to at the retirement ceremony. If you would like to send anything by mail, please use the address shown on the front of this newsletter. Thanks!



Shirley Kelly

Shirley will retire on December 31, 2003 after 37 years of dedicated service in the Chemical Engineering department. These years hold a lot of memories for Shirley to feast on for many years to come. She has been a "mother figure" for the students over the years. Through her contact with students she has developed friendships that will last a lifetime. Students have even offered Shirley the opportunity to travel abroad to visit various countries. Upon retirement she hopes to travel to visit family and friends and to go on cruises. Shirley will also remain active in her church and continue to work with various organizations that send minority children to Santa Fe Community College.

