We in the Chemistry Department mourn the death of our colleague, Jim McFarland, who died January 30, 1990 after a remarkably courageous struggle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease. With the heroic help and support of his wife, Judy, Jim taught until he could speak no longer; he worked with his graduate students until the day he had his ventilator removed to end his suffering. In dying as in living, Jim pursued with great determination his convictions about how life should be lived.

In remembering Jim and celebrating his life among us, we recall his tireless efforts to make this a campus of intellectual excellence and rigor, whether in the classroom, the laboratory, or in the administration of the department. Coming to UW-M in 1970 as the vanguard of the experimental biochemists and molecular biologists on this campus, Jim became known throughout the world for his mechanistic studies on liver alcohol dehydrogenase and for his creative use of resonance Raman spectroscopy in the study of flavoproteins. This is a particularly noteworthy achievement in that he was in constant competition with researchers from extremely well funded laboratories who had lower teaching loads.

From the beginning, Jim led the way in developing a cooperative and collaborative approach to research here that has helped us make the most of our limited resources as we have built up the undergraduate and graduate research program of the department. Similarly, Jim bore the brunt of the tension during our transition to a department aspiring to excellence in research as well as teaching.

Perhaps, most surprising for us, considering his oft professed dislike for administration, was his desire and willingness to sacrifice much time and well being to lead the department as its Chair for five years during this decade. During this time of limited resources for the University, Jim recognized that students from high school had more access to computers than our students in chemistry. With single-minded will and creative financing, he changed this desperate situation and pointed the way to the construction of our computerized learning center for undergraduates.

Jim loved the outdoors, he rode his bicycle year round to work, he always spoke his mind. And what he aspired to in all things was excellence. In many he succeeded. We miss him dearly; but we cherish his memory and his example.

Professor David Petering
For the Department of Chemistry