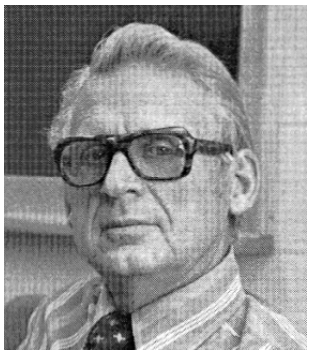

The Department of Chemistry is pleased to sponsor the inaugural Howard Tieckelmann lecture in organic chemistry. Professor Tieckelmann started his chemical studies at Carthage College in Illinois, where he earned a B.A. degree in 1942. Tieckelmann served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and then returned to Buffalo, where he received his doctorate in chemistry from UB in 1948 for a thesis entitled "The Preparation and Properties of Certain Orthocarbonates". He served as an instructor at UB in his last year of graduate school and was appointed Assistant Professor in Chemistry in 1948. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1956, to Full Professor in 1961, and to Distinguished Teaching Professor in 1975.

Professor Tieckelmann is remembered fondly in the Department for his service at both the Departmental and University level. He served as Director of Graduate Studies from 1960-69, as Department Vice-Chair from 1963-69, and as Chair from 1970-74. These were critical times, during which both the Department and University experienced tremendous growth associated with the transition from a smaller private institution to a member of the SUNY system. Professor Tieckelmann served on numerous University Committees. This service included two terms as Chair of the Faculty Council of Natural Science and Mathematics, and a term as Chair of the Presidents Board of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Professor Tieckelmann was an organic chemist with many interests. He carried out detailed studies on the mechanism of Claisen and other rearrangement reactions. He was interested in the chemistry of various heterocycles including pyridines and pyrimidines and in the mechanism for their alkylation reactions. Studies on the intermediates of biosynthetic pathways were a mainstay of Tieckelmann's research from 1970 to his retirement in 1987. Particularly notable are a series of papers published with his colleague Robert Guthrie on the detection and quantification of metabolites, including intermediates of the biosynthesis of porphyrins and of compounds that accumulate in patients suffering from metabolic diseases such as dicarboxylic aciduria.

Professor Tieckelmann's work was funded by grants from the Olin Matheson Company, the American Cancer Society, the National Cancer Institute, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness. Of note was a grant from the National Cancer Institute to study the synthesis and evaluation of antimetabolites. This was funded from 1956-71 and at a total level of more than $1,000,000 that was a particularly large sum for these early days of Government supported research.