

Bender
of
Twigs



David Eichhorn

Professor David Eichhorn started at Wichita State in 1996 and reached full professor in 2009. Along the way he did a stint in the Graduate School as an associate dean (2005-08) and then as chair of the Department of Chemistry (2008-18). With David's guidance as chair, several terrific hires were made, important promotions were facilitated and the department grew in numbers and prestige.

David has always supported faculty and students particularly in their research endeavors. Always helpful in directing his department members toward funding and award opportunities, many of us benefited from his diligent guidance. David's successful leadership at the department level, along with his accumulated experience within the university, made him a natural choice as an associate dean when Andrew Hippisley became dean of Fairmount College. Within the college David has earned a reputation for professionalism, dependability, responsiveness and collegiality. As Associate Dean he is a strong advocate of the college's research mission and always ready to support our faculty and students as they pursue funding and recognition for their projects.

You may not know this, but David's father was also a Shocker. While David has been at Wichita State for 25 years, his father, Dr. Gunther Eichhorn, began his official Shocker-hood quite a while before David. Professor G. Eichhorn was WSU's 1983 Watkins Visiting Professor. During his tenure he presented three talks at our campus, two of which were in the chemistry department that David would later lead for 10 years. But in 1983, David was still working toward his bachelor's degree at Harvard before pursuing his doctorate at Berkeley. David's Ph.D. dissertation title was "Iron and Manganese Complexes of Possible Biological Relevance." One of Gunther's talk titles at Wichita State in 1983 was "Interactions of Nucleic Acids with Metal Ions." The ion doesn't fall far from the atom, right? Do you think anybody in Gunther's audience had even an inkling that they were listening to the father of their future colleague, much less their future department chair? We can only guess at that. What we know for certain is that Wichita State was lucky to have this pair of Eichhorns, even if only briefly in Gunther's case. Luckily for us, David has decided to stick around a bit longer

Let's not forget that, like his dad, David's principal role at Wichita State has been that of teacher. At the graduate level, he has mentored 10 graduate thesis/dissertation projects (7 Ph.D and 3 MS). He's hosted four postdoctoral researchers in his lab and worked with dozens of undergraduate students. David, along with his students and colleagues at WSU, has published 21 peer-reviewed journal articles and presented numerous research presentations at meetings. His research efforts benefited the department tremendously by leading to multiple funded grants and the establishment of our X-ray Laboratory. His students have gone on to a range of successful career paths including several who now hold academic positions. In the classroom, David is knowledgeable and rigorous yet understanding and always helpful. He is popular with our majors, both as a class instructor and research mentor.

Within the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, David's judgement and leadership is universally trusted and appreciated by students, staff and faculty. As the current department chair, I can attest to this from the many times I have heard, "but David says..." from my colleagues. Personally speaking, David has been a terrific mentor and advisor and one who I have often turned to for advice. Also, he is one of the best proofreaders I have known and I cringe a bit when thinking about how he'll mark this piece up when he reads it!

In closing, I join the Wichita State family in congratulating David on his 25 years of valuable service and look forward to helping Wichita State and Fairmount College become even greater.



Doug English
Associate Professor and Department Chair
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOCHEMISTRY