Dr. Gerhard Gerber inducted into Faculty of Health Sciences Community of Distinction

On September 28, 2012, Gerhard Gerber, former Chair and now Professor Emeritus of the Department, was inducted into the Faculty of Health Sciences Community of Distinction. Gerhard joined the Faculty of Health Sciences as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Biochemistry in 1978. He was a graduate student and Fellow of the University of Toronto (PhD 1975, Fellow 1975) and Medical Research Council Research Postdoctoral Fellow at MIT (1975-1978). He had a very successful research program using chemical approaches to the study of membrane structure and function; and fatty acid trafficking. In October 1991 he was appointed as Chair of the Department of Biochemistry for a five year term, which was renewed for a second term when he was offered the role of VP Research and International Affairs. Prior to becoming Chair, Gerhard ran the undergraduate program for 12 years and due to this intimate knowledge, upon becoming Chair he restructured it to enable the department to offer an innovative coop program which has grown from the initial 28 students in 1994/95 to its current 38 students.

Gerhard also played a pivotal role in a number of restructuring initiatives at the University:

- **Office of Research Contracts and Intellectual Property (ORCIP):** Gerhard conducted a thorough review of the university IP policies across the North America in order to move McMaster to establish a dynamic and forward thinking policy that clearly outlined ownership. The policy is still in effect today.
- **Office of Research Services (ORS, now ROADS):** Gerhard launched a significant expansion of this office in order to meet the new demands of granting programs and to ensure our Faculty had a competitive advantage with their grant applications
- **McMaster Nuclear Reactor:** Gerhard restructured McMaster’s Nuclear Reactor, turning the expensive (annual loss) research centre into a profitable business/research facility catering to businesses and academics around the world.

Gerhard is a true businessman and admired greatly by his colleagues. He’s a visionary and extremely creative in his business dealings. He’s structured deals with a number of companies to move our research forward blending his keen business sense with the university’s goals and mission. In fact, many of our projects would not have seen the light of day had it not been for his involvement – the McMaster Manufacturing Research Centre – one of the largest manufacturing research centres in the country and the Research Data Centre – the first centre of its kind in Canada, to name but a couple.

In sum, Gerhard has shown remarkable leadership during his time at McMaster. He is most deserving of induction into the Faculty of Health Sciences Community of Distinction and we congratulate him on this honor!