Gary Kolks, Ph.D.

Associate Professor Emeritus of Chemistry

It is true, sadly, all too true. After 40 years as a member of our Manhattan College community, Dr. Gary Kolks will retire in May 2021.

Dr. Kolks is the epitome of the Lasallian educator as a faculty member in the Department of Biochemistry and Chemistry. Gary’s gift for curriculum development in Chemistry, that is, his ability to combine developments in Chemistry with the needs of our students majoring in Science and in Engineering is a reflection of his enchantment with the beauty of Chemistry. His reintroduction of the richness of descriptive Chemistry back into the General Chemistry lecture and laboratory along with an enhancement of problem solving skills development, is only a part of his vision for excellence in the Chemical education that is offered to our students. His “The Great Copper Experiment”, will certainly be remembered, and illustrates the tenet that Chemistry is firstly, an experimental science. His excellence in education is further evidenced throughout his Inorganic Chemistry course lecture topics.

Gary’s service to the Department and to the College is legendary. A member of the College Senate, and the Council for Faculty Affairs, Gary’s participation and his ability to communicate (generously spiced with a humorous wit) with all other committee members is only one example of his collegial participation in the life of the College. A valuable member of Department committees, Gary is a pillar of Department life: always available for advice, for insight, whether with a student, a graduate, or a faculty colleague.

A fitting tribute to this exceptional faculty colleague and truly outstanding educator, is the awarding of the title Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Biochemistry.