

Walter Kauzmann: an undergraduate perspective

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Even to this day, I remember quite vividly Walter Kauzmann as an undergraduate teacher. Physical chemistry taught by Walter was like no other course. He would rush into the class room and start talking and writing on the blackboard *very* rapidly. Rarely did he refer to notes, as he went through complex derivations quickly and efficiently, as only he can. The class was in awe of his brilliance and physical insight into the complex subject matter. He clearly not only wanted to explain physical chemistry: he also wanted to inspire and challenge students. For me, that class was the reason I ended up as a physical chemist in graduate school. The idea that the complex mathematics of the physical sciences need to be translated into an understanding of the physical phenomena being studied has been a cardinal element of my own teaching and research.

Who can forget his final exam? It was a thick sheaf of problems, something like fifty or so, and the instruction to the student was to do as many as

you can. My guess is that people were lucky if they completed ten of the problems, many of which were the thought posers Walter delighted in. How he graded the final exam is still a complete mystery to me.

When my own research program evolved toward biology, the important conceptual contributions of Walter became apparent. I especially remember his memorable review in *Advances in Protein Chemistry* (1959) where he presented the principles underlying the stability of proteins. The introduction and importance of the 'hydrophobic effect' is especially noteworthy. I still recommend this review to graduate students. Many scientists developed important research programs that owe much to this review. For those who know him personally, his quick wit and rapid retorts are memorable.

Walter clearly is a renaissance scientist, an outstanding teacher and researcher, with incredibly broad interests. His legacy of students speaks to the success of his efforts. I wish him well and offer my personal thanks for his marvelous contributions to education and science.

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