

Dear Professor and Mrs. Shirley, dear Vice-President Schütt, dear speakers and guests:

It is a pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Fachbereich Physik to this symposium in honor of Professor David A. Shirley on the occasion of his 80th birthday in this year.

Even though speeches are the tasks I appreciate least as a department chairman, this time the preparation was very interesting and it is a pleasure to look back on the development of strong ties between Professor Shirley and our Fachbereich.

The scientific links between the Shirley group and the Fachbereich began to develop in the early sixties of the last century, a time when part of our present faculty wasn't even born. According to my sources, the contacts started when Eckart Matthias, who had received his doctoral degree from the University of Uppsala in 1963, obtained a prestigious postdoctoral fellowship from the Miller Institute for Basic Research in Science at University of California at Berkeley, and joined the research group of the young assistant professor of chemistry David Shirley at the then Lawrence Radiation Lab. Professor Shirley and his group were working in the field of Hyperfine Interactions, employing in particular nuclear orientation at ultra-low temperatures, nuclear resonance detected by nuclear radiation, as well as the newly discovered Mössbauer effect.

Eckart Matthias was appointed full Professor at our Fachbereich in 1969 returning from his researcher position in the Shirley group.

However, Professor Matthias wasn't the only link to Professor Shirley. A number of our former faculty members spent extended stays in the Shirley group at UC Berkeley, including the Professors Gabriel, Kaindl, Klein, and Quitmann as well as scientists from extra-university research institutes in Berlin, as the former Hahn-Meitner-Institut. The exchange also worked in the other direction, when William Brewer, who was a PhD student of Dave Shirley, joined the Fachbereich and was later appointed Professor here. Also Professor Shirley himself spent in 1970, when he was already chairman of the chemistry department at UC Berkeley, a six month sabbatical at the Freie Universität. These tight connections were instrumental for establishing the successful "Sonderforschungsbereich Hyperfeinwechselwirkungen" at our Fachbereich that flourished from 1972 to 1986. The strong link between Professor Shirley and the Fachbereich continued during his directorship of the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory from 1980 to 1989. His leading role in creating the "Advanced Light Source", the very first of 3rd generation light sources, at the LBL had substantial influence on the plans for BESSY-II, and hence even on the present research at our Fachbereich.

As a logic consequence of Professor Shirley's outstanding merits for our department's development, the Fachbereich Physik bestowed its first honorary doctorate in 1987 to Professor Shirley. Soon after, Professor Shirley was awarded a "Humboldt-Forschungspreis" for a twelve month stay at our Fachbereich. This gave him not only further opportunity to foster the scientific cooperation with members of the Fachbereich, but also to experience the fall of the wall here in Berlin in 1989.

Professor Shirley's impressive scientific work is witnessed by several honors: the California Section Award of the American Chemical Society and the Ernest O. Lawrence Award of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission. He is also a fellow of the American Physical Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. And he is a member of the US National Academy of Science as well as of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

I will refrain from trying to comment in detail on Professor Shirley's science. This will much better be done in the talks of the following symposium. However, I want to express my deep appreciation for Professor Shirley's scientific vision. He was a leading figure among those getting synchrotron radiation away from the notion of being parasitic radiation in storage rings built for high-energy physics and turning on the bright light from dedicated synchrotron light sources.

I wish you all a very stimulating symposium!