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Dr. John Stewart named acting University of Montana graduate dean

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Dr. John M. Stewart, a University of Montana faculty member for 22 years and former chairman of the Department of Chemistry, has been named acting dean of the UM Graduate School, according to President Robert T. Pantzer.

Dr. Stewart, who headed chemistry from 1959 until he resigned in 1967 to return to research and teaching, will begin his new duties on July 1. President Pantzer announced earlier this week that Dr. Fred S. Honkala, graduate dean since 1964, will begin a one-year leave of absence this summer to serve as director of the Advanced Science Education Program for the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C.

"Having attended the University of Montana as an undergraduate and having served both as chemistry chairman and faculty member, Dr. Stewart is fully acquainted with University objectives," said President Pantzer. "I am most pleased he has consented to serve the institution in this important post."

Joining the chemistry teaching staff in 1946 as an assistant professor, Dr. Stewart was promoted to full professor in 1955. He had previously been a research chemist for California Research Corporation, 1945-46, and the War Production Board, 1943-45.

Dr. Stewart's area of specialization has been organic chemistry. In addition to engaging in extensive writings for scientific publications, he has been the recipient of several research grants totaling more than $40,000 from agencies including Research Corporation of New York, Petroleum Research Fund of the American Chemical Society and other organizations. As department chairman he prepared several successful proposals for departmental research grants by National Science Foundation. The latest of these, to be awarded this summer, provides matching funds of $19,800 to aid in purchase of a nuclear magnetic resonance spectrometer.
Born in Vermillion, S. Dak., Dr. Stewart received his B.A. degree from the University of Montana in 1941. He was awarded the Ph.D. degree by the University of Illinois in 1944.

He has served the UM faculty as a member of Faculty Senate, the Salary and Promotions Committee, and the Athletic Committee. His professional affiliations include American Chemical Society and American Men of Science. He is a member of Sigma Xi, Phi Kappa Phi, Phi Lambda Upsilon and Pi Mu Epsilon honoraries, and Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

An outdoorsman, Dr. Stewart is a board member of the Western Montana Fish and Game Association and is a past president of that organization. He also has served on the Missoula County Water Pollution Committee.

Mrs. Stewart is the former Helen Faulkner of Missoula. The Stewarts' daughter, Gayle, recently received a B.S. degree in dental hygiene from the University of Washington. Dr. Stewart's mother, Mrs. Gertrude H. Stewart of Missoula, is a retired UM Business Office employee.

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