The Tech faculty forum

This article is the first of a series to be written entirely by members of the faculty. Future editions of this Tech Forum will present a wide range of thought. Material will spring from current and well-known issues to the inner workings of many of MIT's lesser-known activities. This first guest is the late Professor James A. Chamberlin, who joined the admissions office of MIT in 1945. He is a graduate of Denison University; his wide diversions include an active editorial role in his school's yearbook and his work as MIT's fraternity. He has held the position of Associate Advisor to Foreign Students since 1935.

The appointment of Professor Paul M. Chalmers by MIT as Advisor to Foreign Students in 1944 was a formal recognition by the Institute of an administrative office which could serve the special needs of a growing community of students who were citizens of foreign countries.

Chalmers, who is a member of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Department of Political Science, says that the primary purpose of the office he directs is to "help foreign students to make the most of their association with the Institute and to help them to make a smooth transition into their new environment and new careers." He adds that the office is primarily an information center, although it also assists students in finding housing and in job placement.

"The office primarily is a problem-solving and counseling center," Chalmers said. "The cases we handle are very varied. We have to take care of many different kinds of problems. Sometimes it's a question of legal status. Sometimes it's a problem of finding a place to live. Sometimes it's a problem of finding a job. Sometimes it's a problem of personal adjustment. Whatever the problem, we try to help the student to find a solution."