

Lady Prof's Career Tops Most Men's

By Eleanor Biller
Feature Reporter

The oft held misconception that the science of mathematics is reserved for eccentric old men with long white hair and glasses made from coke bottle bottoms is again being refuted, much to the delight of campus undergraduates. Mrs. Dagmar Kirschner Henney, newcomer to the math department, is evidence that women as well as men can put two and two together.

Mrs. Henney, in the short space of three and one half years, earned both her bachelor and



HENNEY

... math professor

masters degree at the University of Miami. She won her BA in mathematics and physics, and her MA in pure mathematics. Mrs. Henney modestly attributes her outstanding accomplishment to tutoring by her scientist father and to her European high school training.

Mrs. Henney's background, no doubt, was a strong influence in determining her career. She was born in Berlin, the daughter of

the eminent nuclear physicist, Albert Kirschner. Her youth was spent there amidst the horrors of the Nazi regime.

Most Jewish families were completely annihilated at this time, but the Kirschners were spared for a while because of the nature of Albert Kirschner's work. In order to induce her husband to continue his work, Mrs. Kirschner was arrested by the Nazis; she was later executed.

It wasn't until after the war that Mrs. Henney was able to attend high school. At the completion of her studies in 1951, she joined her grandparents in Miami.

Mrs. Henney, a native German, spoke no English when she entered the University of Miami in 1952. On the basis of the results of placement examinations, she was permitted to take such highly advanced subjects as nuclear physics and advanced calculus in her freshman year.

Mrs. Henney soon mastered the English language by working in a movie theater in Miami and seeing each show three or four times. It was in a physics class at the University of Miami that she met Mr. Allan Henney. Her husband is presently employed at the Naval Ordnance Laboratory, while working for his masters degree here at Maryland. Mrs. Henney besides teaching math 5, 10 and 11, is working for her doctorate.

Mrs. Henney's opinion of the calibre of Maryland students is gratifying. She says, "The students here are very eager to learn." Indeed, she thinks well of Americans as a whole because "they are very friendly people."

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