



Throughout my life I have been blessed to be surrounded by people that allowed me, encouraged me and enabled me to pursue my dreams. That is a luxury not many have. Mentioned here are a few of those special people, particularly in my early years, but there are many others.

Myers took me aside and urged me to study mechanical engineering. He said with that degree I could get a better job than high school physics teacher. What might I have done without his insistence that I study something I knew nothing about?

When I entered LSU in 1965 the only entrance requirement was a Louisiana high school diploma, but the freshman failure rate was very high. I remember an LSU freshman orientation meet-ing in an auditorium where we were told to look to our left and right because only one of those three people would return for their sophomore year. I was the one. I loved the large campus and the excitement of LSU, Saturday nights in Tiger stadium and "showtime" at the Cow Palace featuring the magician Pete Maravich, intramural sports, and the challenge of physics, calculus and engineering. There were many Professors and graduate students that taught, challenged and mentored me.

Social upheaval continued during my eight years at LSU. I had many "hippie" friends, music had changed dramatically, the drug culture was in full bloom, and the Viet Nam war was raging. Following the assassinations of John F. Kennedy in 1963, his brother Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King were assassinated in 1968. Campus protests were common, and traditional values prevalent in the 1950's were disappearing. I remember war protesters at LSU and a young David Duke in his khaki uniform speaking passionately at free speech alley in front of the union.

I also remember wondering how these people had time for such activities. I had my hands full with the likes of Physics, Calculus and Statics, which had a failure rate of 30%. Those that survived Statics were given the privilege of taking Dynamics, which had a similar fail-

About the same time I joined the Engineering Mechanics department as a graduate student, Dr. Dan Yannitell arrived from Cornell as a new faculty member. He was recently married to Cyril and neither knew anyone in Baton Rouge. Lynn and Cyril became friends and Dr. Yannitell became my dissertation advisor. We are still friends. It took me 10 years to stop addressing him as Dr. Yanitell.

After taking my Ph.D. written exam and defending my dissertation orally, I was anxious while the committee decided my fate, but I had a class to teach. Dr. Carver found a unique way to give me the results. He interrupted my class, but did not speak to me. Instead he told my students that it would now be appropriate to address me as Dr. Wooley, then smiled at me as he left the room. The only thing missing was a wink. I laughed in relief and celebration as the class applauded.

I left LSU in December 1972 and began a long career in the petroleum industry as employee, then technical and business consultant and

