

REFLECTIONS OF BOBBY SAVOIE

AS I WRITE THIS, it is hard for me to believe that it was 38 years ago that I moved into Hatcher Dormitory with one of my best friends from high school. That dormitory held more people than the entire population of the town that I grew up in on Bayou Lafourche. There was never any doubt that I was going to LSU, nor was there any doubt that I would become an engineer. I loved solving problems and building or repairing things, particularly if it was something that people said couldn't be done. Both of my parents were brilliant in their own way and had instilled in me and my six siblings both a tremendous work ethic and a love of learning that would stay with me my whole life. Therefore, leaving Belle Rose and moving to Baton Rouge seemed like a natural transition in my life. I quickly found out that I had a lot to learn, and not just in the classroom. Although only an hour away, life at LSU was a totally

different world from the one I knew in Belle Rose. During my four years at LSU, I learned as much outside the classroom as I did inside. I entered LSU as an 18 year old who thought he was "grown up" and left as a 22 year old man with an Engineering degree and a new-found humility who knew he still had a lot to learn, and a lifetime within which to learn it. LSU changed my life in more ways than I would have ever imagined. I definitely took time to enjoy the party-school reputation of LSU back in those days, but I also learned just how much work it took to finish an Engineering degree in four years. The College of Engineering at LSU had an excellent reputation that was well deserved. I remember walking out of one of my final exams in the spring semester of my senior year, after being awake for 36 hours straight, and seeing that I had an "A" in my last class, meaning I could skip the final. That feeling of accomplishment

