



*Reflections of*

them: Coates, Murrill, Pike, Groves, Callihan, Greenberg and Daly.

I never had a course with Jesse Coates, but one day he called me into his office and asked why I was taking a lab course in the summer. Upon telling him that it was necessary because of baseball in the spring, he told me that he would make arrangements so that I would not have to take the lab if I took a new course in polymers. Not only that, he said that if I continue to do well, I should go to graduate school and, should I go to graduate school at LSU, I would receive a stipend as a teaching assistant, a possibility that had never occurred to me. The Department Head calling in a student for a talk might seem unremarkable except for the fact that, to this day, I have no idea why Coates even knew I was taking the lab course or how he knew I was doing well in my chemical engineering courses. Coates was an icon among the students of my generation; he molded the department during his tenure as head and influenced a large number of students through his leadership of this outstanding program.

Paul Murrill taught by example. He was thorough in his classroom presentations and always gave students the impression that he knew the entire chemical engineering literature. He was known for sprinkling oral examinations with questions about the history of the Chemical Engineering Department or the latest nontechnical book a student might have read. These were not eccentricities; he was demonstrating the value he placed on culture, literature and people. When he became chancellor of this university, I remember him telling an interviewer that he loved to roam the LSU campus at night because of its feel. Getting the feel of a college campus by seeing it at night is something I also enjoy and recommend.

Paul Murrill's teaching, academic leadership and interests in intellectual pursuits shaped my thinking and guided me into the teaching profession. There is no question in my mind that he would have been successful in any academic, business or political position.

Ralph Pike arrived at LSU from the North Avenue Trade School (also known as Georgia Tech) in Atlanta just in time to teach me transport phenomena. Of course, at that time I had no idea his background was with an institution which would become so important in my life. The discipline and preparation characterizing Pike's lectures were models for my early teaching career.

Frank Groves was the best teacher I have ever seen, and I have seen a lot of great teachers. I have never understood why all of my classmates and I had that opinion. Groves wasn't flashy, and we often had the feeling we were making little progress in covering material; however, the end of the semester would arrive, and we would be astounded at the ground we had covered. I'll never forget the semester I took graduate thermodynamics; we covered everything from classical First- and Second-Law material, to phase equilibria, to statistical thermodynamics, and we never felt rushed! How did he do it? If I could only answer that question, perhaps my students would appreciate my teaching the way I do Frank's.

Dave Greenberg taught more of my chemical engineering courses than any other member of the faculty, and he introduced me to research as an undergraduate one winter between fall and spring semesters. He was the one who taught that course in stoichiometry which was so fateful in determining my future.

Two people directed my dissertation research. Clayton Callihan is reputed to have attended Michigan State when he was told by his supervisor at Dow Chemical that he would go nowhere without a college degree. Not content merely to get a degree, Callihan got his doctorate and returned to Dow. He came to LSU with industrial design experience and expertise in polymers. It was this latter area that interested me and attracted