

## Epilogue

In 1902 when Prof. Percy Evans started teaching a course in chemical engineering he started a chain of events that led to the chemical engineering curriculum in 1907 and the formation of the School of Chemical Engineering in 1911. It is doubtful that he or any of the other early developers of chemical engineering (e.g., Goss, Benjamin, Stone and Peffer) had any idea that 100 years later the School would have grown to its current state.

This *History* closely follows the *History* written by Professor Nicholas Peppas for the 75th anniversary of the School in 1986. The changes since 1986 were added for the 100th anniversary celebration. As Professor Peppas noted in the Epilogue to the previous *History*, the vast majority of students, alumni, faculty, and staff who have been associated with the School are aware of only a small part of the history and achievements of the School. Thus, this *History* will undoubtedly provide new information and insights for most readers. Because Professor Peppas and I believe that the history of Purdue's School of Chemical Engineering is strongly affected by national and international developments, we have included a modest amount of information on these activities.

In addition to being affected by national and international developments, the School has had considerable impact on these developments. First, we must consider our graduates – the reason for having a School in the first place. Although being the largest undergraduate program in the U. S. A. is not the School's goal, *Purdue has graduated more BS chemical engineers than any other program in the U. S. A.* Not only has the School produced a large number of graduates, they have made their mark in industry, as entrepreneurs, in academe, and in fields far away from chemical engineering (see textboxes on Some Unusual Careers and Interests). Although the rest of the chemical engineering world seems unaware of the facts, Purdue has graduated large numbers of Ph.D. students, and for years was in the top five of Ph.D. production in the U. S. A. Many of these graduates have gone on to outstanding careers in industry and academe. Fortunately, Purdue alumni are noted for their loyalty, which was displayed in large measure during the construction of the Forney addition and the renovation of the old CMET building.

Next, consider textbooks. The early books by Shreve, *Chemical Process Industries*, which ran through five editions, and Bray, *Non-Ferrous Production Metallurgy*, were best sellers. The book *Introduction to Chemical Engineering Thermodynamics* written first by J. M. Smith at Purdue with later editions co-authored by H. C. Van Ness and then Michael Abbott is the all-time best seller of all chemical engineering textbooks. In the same time frame Glasstone and Sesonske's book *Nuclear Reactor Engineering* helped set the stage for nuclear engineering. In the 1960's and 70's Coughanowr and Koppel's *Process Systems Analysis and Control* text and Bennett and Myer's *Momentum, Heat, and Mass Transfer* were the pace setters in undergraduate education. Wankat and Oreovicz's book *Teaching Engineering* is the only book in this area and continues to serve as a valuable resource for many new professors. Finally, as the capstone of his long career, Albright published a new *Chemical Engineering Handbook* as the sole editor.

Although Purdue did not have a graduate program in chemical engineering until 1924 and there was little early focus on research, Peffer's development of a synthetic building stone that was commercialized as Rostone by David E. Ross is an early example of commercialization of academic research. Shreve was one of the major researchers in the School from 1930 to 1955, and he developed many successful processes for producing organic chemicals. Although research floundered in the late 50's and early 60's, it rapidly forged ahead after Greenkorn became the Head. Purdue was the national center for control research until Coughanowr, Koppel and Lim left. Major efforts in biochemical and biomedical engineering, catalysis, and separations were started in the 70's and continue today. From 1923 to 2009, School faculty wrote or edited 134 books, wrote over 140 technical reports, and authored or co-authored over 3500 referred technical publications. Today, Purdue is a national leader in energy research (biologically-based, catalytically-based bioenergy, solar energy conversion, and increased efficiency of use of fossil resources), pharmaceutical engineering, and process engineering.

As described in this book, by the impressive work of its graduates, faculty and staff members, Purdue's School of Chemical Engineering has had a tremendous impact on society. Without doubt, all indications are that this will continue in the future. We hope that in another 100 years Purdue ChE graduates will say, "My Purdue education was great, and, if I could, I would do it all over again."