ChE educator

# FRANK GROVES

## FAVORITE PROFESSOR

**An outstanding teacher who participates actively in research, consulting, and in both local and national AIChE activities is featured in this issue as our "ChE Educator"**

Ten years of inspiring teaching in chemical engineering has won Dr. Frank R. Groves, Jr., of Louisiana State University the reputation of "master teacher." But in addition to his classroom ability, he has been cited as a scholar and a researcher.

The 39-year-old Louisiana native has been teaching a wide range of subjects including most of the University's undergraduate course offerings in chemical engineering. Among these are material and energy balances, thermodynamics, fluid flow, transport processes, heat, mass and momentum, properties of gases and liquids, and mathematical models. At the graduate level he has taught thermodynamics, distillation, reactor design and scale-up theory.

LSU's chemical engineering students in 1966 named him "Favorite Professor." In the following year he was awarded one of four Halliburton Awards for excellence in teaching in the College of Engineering. The awards emphasize the importance of quality instruction and encourage the development of excellence in the organization and presentation of engineering course work. The Halliburton program at LSU is designed to reward individual professors who have made contributions beyond that expected in the normal performance of their duties.

Dr. Groves served on the faculty committee which directed revision of the LSU chemical engineering department's curriculum several years ago, and he has also helped prepare new course materials for the department. He has been a guest lecturer in the American Society for Engineering Education's visiting engineer program and has written 11 research papers for publication or symposium presentation. His teaching has extended to off-campus courses for industrial personnel throughout Louisiana.

Like his teaching interests Dr. Groves' research interests have been broad. A unifying thread of interest in problems related to chemical reactor design holds together his diverse individual projects. These have included digital computer studies and experimental work on variable temperature absorbers, a project in the pure chemistry of an oxidation reaction catalyzed by a complex ion, various digital computer studies on variable temperature reactors, computer analysis of supersonic combustion for ramjet engines, and an investigation of vapor-liquid equilibria in non-aqueous solutions. Most of these studies have been described at technical meetings and several have been published in the permanent technical literature.

Dr. Groves has supervised many MS theses and four PhD dissertations during his service at LSU. Three of his PhD students are employed in industry—one in aerospace, another in petrochemicals, and the third in organic chemicals. The latest will begin a career in university teaching this fall. His MS students are scattered over the United States in various industries.

Aside from his work at LSU Dr. Groves has been active professionally in a number of other ways. He has spent two summers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory working on the fluoride

## ChE Division Chairman for 1968-69: W. H. Corcoran

The new chairman of the Chemical Engineering Division of the American Society of Engineering Education is Professor William H. Corcoran, Executive Officer, Department of Chemical Engineering, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California. Professor Corcoran has recently served as Executive Board Member and as Chairman of the Publications Board for the Division and it is largely through his leadership and personal efforts that **Chemical Engineering Education** has received excellent financial support from industrial corporations and universities.

Professor Corcoran has been a member of the Cal Tech faculty since 1952 as Associate Professor and then Professor of Chemical Engineering. Prior to that he had been Director of Technical Development for Cutter Laboratories. He has been active in the AIChE having served on the National Program Committee as Chairman of Group 7, Education and Humanities and as a member of Group 4, Fundamentals. He is also serving on the Student Chapter Committee and the Membership Committee.

Professor Corcoran is active in various civic and religious groups. He is the author of numerous papers and several books dealing with kinetics, thermodynamics, transport phenomena, and other areas.

**Division Officers and Committee Members for 1968-69**

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Publications Committee Chairman—James H. Weber, University of Nebraska.

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volatility process for treatment of spent nuclear fuel elements. Another two summers were spent at NASA's Langley Research Center working on computer analysis of supersonic combustion in ramjet engines. He is a member of the American Chemical Society and has been active in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers serving as vice-chairman, chairman, and member of the executive committee of the Baton Rouge Section. He served as a member of the Technical Program Committee for the 1967 Houston National Meeting of AIChE and has been active in consulting work with Columbian Carbon Company since 1962 first at Lake Charles, La. and now at Princeton, N. J. where he has consulted on various aspects of organic process development.

Dr. Groves is currently working under a NASA contract on improvement of a computer program describing supersonic combustion. This project is a small part of a NASA research program aimed at developing ramjet aircraft for flight in the hypersonic range (5 to 12 times the speed of sound). Next year he will be directing a project at LSU on drying of porous solids for Cabot Corporation.

Dr. Groves was born in 1929 in New Orleans, Louisiana, and received his elementary education in the public schools of that city. He entered Tulane University in the summer of 1945 and received a BS in Chemical Engineering in 1950 and an MS in Chemistry in 1951. He attributes his success in teaching a wide range of courses to the broad basic training in science and engineering provided at Tulane.

While studying chemistry at Tulane he was fortunate to have as major professor Dr. Hans B. Jonassen, who aroused an interest in research on complex ions, which has persisted up to the present time. With the encouragement of Dr. Jonassen he entered the University of Wisconsin in 1951 and continued his fundamental studies in chemical engineering receiving the PhD in 1955. Following graduate school, Dr. Groves spent four years in industry including two years with Atlantic Refining Company and one year with Texas Instruments Inc. in Dallas, Texas. He married the former Margaret Hodge of Dallas in 1959. They have one son, Frank D. Groves, 8 years old.