

FOCUS ON THE FACULTY

DR. JAMES D. BARGAINER

BY LESLIE MELTON

Though some things have changed as the years have gone by, one of the things that has remained a constant is the involvement of Dr. James D. Bargainer in the education of both past and present students of engineering at Baylor University. Receiving his BSEE from Lamar University and going on to earning his MSEE from Northwestern University and a PhD from the University of Texas, Dr. Bargainer taught electrical engineering at the University of Houston for several years and later worked in the private sector for Mobil Oil Field Research Laboratory. In 1979 he finally got the green and gold spirit and joined the Baylor University staff in the newly formed Department of Engineering and Computer Science. Through his hard work, the small department in which he started as a professor and moved up to be Chairman in 1979, has grown into what it is today the School of Engineering and Computer Science.

In 1995, Dr. Bargainer became the Dean of this school, and as all his students can attest, this distinction is well deserved.

Dr. Bargainer's professional career as both a private sector engineer and a professor is full of achievements and awards. He has written several articles that have been appeared in publications such as *IEEE Transaction on Electronic Computers* and *Journal of The Franklin Institute*. He holds two patents in the measurement and well logging field. He was elected Engineer of the Year by the Central Texas Chapter of the Texas Society of Professional Engineers in 1993 and 1994 and has had Letters of Commendation as Outstanding Teacher.

As an educator, Dr. Bargainer has always had a deep, sincere interest in his students. Being a student of engineering requires discipline and long hours. Dr. Bargainer's encouragement has helped many students in difficult times thus allowing them

to finish their degrees and go on to very productive careers. His energetic teaching techniques (though not his 8:00 a.m. class schedule) has aided his students towards a better understanding the subject matter. Dr. Bargainer's implementation of a Senior Design project prepared his students for the real world by bridging the gap between the life as a student and life as an engineer. Though the going sometimes got rough, Dr. Bargainer was always there to give that extra push. Without the support and encouragement of Dr. Bargainer and the rest of the faculty and staff of the School of Engineering, many of us would have never graduated.

The education we received was invaluable and the memories we retain are unforgettable. Dr. Bargainer and his staff have made not only text book engineers but true scientists out of us. For that, Dr. Bargainer, your students thank you. ❖