

Bob Rinker and Why/How We Wish to Honor Him

Robert G. (Bob) Rinker was the Department's first faculty member, its third chair, and served for many years as the College's Associate Dean for Academic Affairs. Through his efforts, example and leadership, the foundations of excellence now taken for granted were built. In a department of fine teachers, he won the undergraduate teaching award so often that the "trophy was retired." Many students will recall his feigned gruff manner and his impossible exams, but also his concern to educate engineers of the highest quality. He challenged everyone to do his/her very best while making the often arduous work both exciting and memorable.

The Robert G. Rinker Laboratory Endowment Initiative is being established by a group of chemical engineering alumni and friends as a vehicle for honoring and recognizing Bob's incredible contributions to their lives and to the UCSB campus. This initiative also provides an opportunity to help ensure the future excellence of the Department's teaching programs, an objective that Bob supports strongly enough that he has allowed his name to be associated with this initiative.

As tributes that will endure for many generations, the Rinker name will be attached to two central elements: (1) a state of the art instruction laboratory and (2) a permanent endowment to maintain that facility for all future students.

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