

## T. Richard Robe, Dean of Ohio University College of Engineering and Technology, 1980-1996

Dean T. Richard Robe grew up in Athens and received an undergraduate degree in civil engineering and a masters degree in mechanical engineering from Ohio University. He continued his education with a Ph. D. from Stanford University, where he was a National Science Fellow and a post graduate research fellow at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1973. Dean Robe began his teaching career at Ohio University, and was a member of the faculty from 1960 to 1963. He began teaching at the University of Kentucky in 1965, where he also became the associate dean of academic affairs for the College of Engineering. In 1980, Robe accepted the position as Dean of Ohio University's College of Engineering and Technology and returned to his hometown of Athens, Ohio. He acted as dean of the college for sixteen years before retiring and returning to teaching in 1996. After his years as dean, Robe also played a critical role in developing the Robe Leadership Institute, a program designed to teach engineering students real world leadership skills. He was the director of the institute from 1997 to 2004, when he retired from teaching.

The Dean T. Richard Robe Collection consists of 35 Hollinger boxes and illustrates the many tasks involved in being a dean of a college. The first 22 boxes of the collection are comprised exclusively of Dean Robe's correspondence and interoffice communication. The dean's correspondences consists of offers of employment to faculty, scholarship and grant offers, letters to fellow deans, and notes to acquaintances. His interoffice communication files deal mainly with faculty reminders, employment information, and other general administrative issues. These files are arranged by month, and are organized in chronological order. Box 22 includes correspondences with specific individuals, such as friends, President Ping, or Provost Bruning. Dean Robe kept these files separate, and they have been kept apart from the rest of his correspondence files to maintain the integrity of the collection. The 22 boxes demonstrate the great deal of information and communication required to successfully run the College of Engineering.

Also included in the collection is general information about the college and these boxes comprise the next six boxes of the collection. Dean Robe has provided college brochures, reports from the Board of Visitors, alumni directories, and the college's goals, accomplishments, and proposals. Each year Dean Robe developed a set of goals, and reviewed the college's accomplishments of the previous year. These are included in the collection, as well as 5 year reports, and Stocker Endowment proposals. One of the most interesting components of the collection is Robe's sixteen Weekly Minders. He has included one for each year he was dean of the college, and they outline his appointments, tasks, and even personal time. A number of his personal speeches, scholarly articles, and proposals are also a part of the collection.

The final seven boxes of the collection are devoted to the Robe Leadership Institute. As director of the institute for seven years and one of its chief founders, Robe was involved in raising the necessary funds from alumni and friends, preparing the course paperwork to implement a new leadership seminar, teaching the seminar, corresponding with students, and arranging speakers, dinners, and other activities for the leadership scholars. The final boxes include a great deal of paperwork involved in developing the program, preparations made for the institute's 5 year review, and awards associate with the institute. Also included are the materials that Robe used when he taught the Fall, 2003 Robe Leadership Institute Seminar. His lecture notes, slides, quotes of the day, and numerous e-mails to students are all available. Robe also provided a great deal of student work, including their journals, which illustrate the many projects the leadership scholars were involved in during the seminar.