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AN APPRECIATION

By D. Rix Edwards*

To say that he is a gentleman and a scholar has traditionally been one of the highest compliments that could be given a son of the University of North Carolina. Though Colonel Seymour W. Wurfel is both a gentleman and a scholar, a greater compliment must be paid him; he is a teacher.

A teacher is not one who lectures in his chosen field of study, simply allowing his pupils to absorb the information given. A teacher is one who guides his students and helps them to develop competence in the area which they study. He is one who, with patience and concern, allows his students to discover their own capabilities. The teacher sets a standard, then listens and encourages. He does not cajole his pupils into learning; he allows his students to make that decision for themselves. In short, the teacher sees his highest duty as the fostering within his students of the self-discipline necessary for successful academic and professional careers.

Throughout his tenure as Professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law, Colonel Wurfel has maintained the standard demanded of those who are teachers. He has always offered his classes not only the opportunity but also the freedom to explore various areas of law. Moreover, he has given his students the freedom to discover the capabilities within themselves. Though the Colonel has expected diligent preparation from his students, he has expected no less of himself. When asked a question he cannot answer, he has studied the question and imparted the fruits of his study; in turn, he has expected his students to do the same. He views his students not as novices, but as developing equals among whom he should foster the highest possible level of competency.

Though Professor Wurfel is retiring, the qualities which he has instilled in his students will continue to have a lasting influence upon the legal profession in North Carolina. His guidance and friendship to those who have studied with him will continue to be invaluable. We, the Alumni of the University of North Carolina School of Law, owe to the Colonel not only our respect and admiration, but also our sincerest gratitude.

A gentleman, yes; a scholar, yes; but most importantly and deservedly, a teacher.

*Member, North Carolina Bar; J.D. 1977, University of North Carolina School of Law.