

DR. CHARLES E. DEVOL REMEMBERED

by

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I first met Dr. Charles E. DeVol in 1958 when I was a sophomore at National Taiwan University. He taught me plant morphology, microbiology, and pteridophytes. He exhibited enormous energy and interest in the work he pursued. Dr. DeVol was a productive scholar and an effective teacher. He was a superb interpreter of science. He would teach a course at a right level, spoke lucidly, repeated important concepts, and encouraged two-way communications. He also handled the laboratory himself, spent long hours with students, saw to it that everyone understood what he or she was doing, and stood ready to offer assistance.

From Dr. DeVol I have learned valuable lessons on how to package teaching material in a way pedagogically fitting and appropriate for the audience, pay attention to the logical development of the theme, use visual aids and multimedia to enhance learning experience, and make lectures vivid, interesting and to the point.

Ever since I joined Biology faculty in University of Illinois at Chicago, I have one aspiration—to become a successful teacher. Each year the graduating class vote for ten best teachers from a total of some 800 faculty members here. This year (1990) I was selected as one of them, and received the coveted Silver Circle Award for Teaching Excellence. I thank Dr. DeVol for having provided such a role model. Those of us who know him well will always remember him as a great teacher: informed, dedicated, and inspiring.