



AIChE Minority Affairs Committee

The faculty were very supportive. And, many became friends that I've maintained over all of these years. It was a very good experience.

There were few other black students, I think, in all of engineering at City College I was the only black chemical engineering student.

GE — Did that create an unusual climate?

No, it didn't create any particular issues. You applied yourself.

GE — Then you transitioned over to MIT —

First, after I finished up at City College, I went to work at ESSO's Bayway refinery in New Jersey. In fact, that's where I met Henry Brown. Henry, I think, had joined Esso a year ahead of me. I was in engineering and he was in research, and we hit up a friendship then.

GE — Henry Brown, of course, was instrumental in establishing AIChE's Minority Affairs activities in the formative years. Do you have any anecdotes

Everybody. And so, I have little patience when people just home in on the race or your particular background. I think it's a question of how have you contributed. I never asked for promotion. I thought I should earn promotion. And promotions came along. There were certainly mentors along the way

materials, and then to bring them to fruition — such as I was fortunate to do working for a large company — it really is exciting.

And, the last project I had at Mobil was