

## DAVID M. MONGRUE



**David M. Mongrue** is Vice President of Operations at The Dow Chemical Company for the Acrylics & Coatings, Discrete Manufacturing, and EO Envelopes. He is also a member of the Operations Leadership Team.

Mongrue began his career in 1979 in manufacturing at the St. Charles Operations site in Louisiana. Following a series of manufacturing engineer and technical lead positions, Mongrue was named production leader for Ethyleneamines in 1989, Acrylics/Acrolein/Acrolein Derivatives in 1990, and in 1994 relocated to Texas City, Texas as the production leader for Hydrocarbons. He later served as the site logistic leader for Texas City's Plant Distribution and Marine Terminal Operations. In 1998, he became business manufacturing leader for the Ethyleneamines/Ethanolamines/Alkyl

Alkanolamines/Gas Treating & Heat Transfer Fluids business units in Danbury, CT and was located in Houston, Texas/Danbury, CT. In 2001, Mongrue was named global business manufacturing leader for the Specialty Alkanolamines and was located at Seadrift, Texas, and in 2002 relocated to Midland, MI as global business manufacturing leader for Biocides and Performance Fluids. In 2004 Mongrue assumed global business manufacturing leader responsibilities for Custom Process, Haltermann Products, Chelants, Performance Fluids and VAM. Mongrue was later named as Business Manufacturing Leader for Specialty Chemicals in 2008 and Performance Monomers in 2010 with responsibility for global business manufacturing, and oversight responsibility for the Acrylates mega project in Saudi Arabia, vinyl acetate monomer (VAM), Performance Monomers, Amines and Polyglycols, Surfactants and Fluids. Most recently Mongrue was the Global Operations Director for the

Acrylics & Coatings Envelope, which included Performance Monomers, Dow Coatings & Epoxy Operations and Supply Chain.

Mongrue serves as the Dow executive for Louisiana State University, a member of the LSU College of Engineering Dean's Advisory Council, board member for the LSU College of Engineering Building campaign, and former district chair for the Boy Scouts Chippewa District.

Mongrue earned a bachelor of science degree in Chemical Engineering from Louisiana State University and has done post graduate work in business administration.

Dave lives in Baton Rouge, Louisiana with his wife, Sue, and his three children, Lauren, Ashley, and Andrew. Dave's hobbies are golf and snow skiing.

## REFLECTIONS OF DAVID M. MONGRUE

I grew up in the small, blue collar town of Luling, just outside of New Orleans. As a boy, my dream was always to attend LSU, that big school in Baton Rouge. I was exposed to the chemical industry through my father, who worked some 30 plus years at the local plant. I was fascinated by the big equipment and various unit operations that I didn't understand at the time, so my curiosity into the field of engineering started there.

My dad was a bit of a "jack of all trades" and could fix just about anything. He had great technical and problem solving skills, which also fueled my interest in engineering. The importance of getting an education and excelling at academics was instilled in me by my mother. She also loved mathematics, which rubbed off on me. As my academic studies advanced, my interest in mathematics and the sciences continued to grow. Chemistry particularly fascinated me, so off to LSU I went, hoping to be the first of my family to earn a

college degree.

Although I had finished near the top of my high school class, LSU was different and big, and my pre-engineering and engineering studies were tough. The more I learned and was challenged, the more determined I became. I learned as much from my failures as I did from my successes. The more challenging the work, the more I grew.

Our studies in the LSU College of Engineering not only taught us the fundamentals of chemical engineering, but the faculty taught us even more valuable skills — the ability to read, research for information/data and a strong logic process to solve problems and make good decisions.

I still remember some 35 years ago, during my sophomore year, going to Dr. Groves' office during his office hours to get help with a particular homework problem. I expected to walk out of there with the answer, but instead walked out very dissatisfied with the brief session. Instead of getting

the answer, Dr. Groves suggested I review my notes from a particular day's lesson and review a specific chapter in our text book. Little did I know at the time, this wise professor was teaching me how to research, learn and think for myself. He gave me a great gift that, of course, I hadn't realized at the time. The gratification and self-confidence I got from solving that problem on my own was inspirational. I have to say that all my Chemical Engineering professors took the same approach. We didn't appreciate it at the time, but they instilled and developed a tremendous skill set that was equally as important as the technical knowledge. Personally, this has served me well throughout my career.

I've always treasured my time at LSU and was particularly proud of the education I received and work we did. It was hard, and it challenged and tested our resolve, our character, our minds and our persistence. But we left with diplomas in hand, more prepared to face the challenges of our career than most. Not only did we have a great academic education, we had learned many valuable lessons about how to gather information, be creative and

make thoughtful, logical decisions.

I have used these skills throughout my career, and they have served me well. Although I'm a Louisiana boy, I've had the great pleasure to live in Texas, Michigan and Pennsylvania, as well as travel the world. I have worked with colleagues from various cultures and backgrounds. My passions for engineering and learning have enabled me to contribute to my company and society in general beyond my imagination. And for this young boy from Luling, my career is another story in itself, but needless to say, it has exceeded my wildest dreams. I hope the legacy I leave is that I enabled the people I worked with to be better than they would have been otherwise.

It's been said that behind every successful man is a good woman. This couldn't be truer of my wife, Sue. Thanks also to my three wonderful children, Lauren, Andrew and Ashley. My family has always inspired me to do my best. It is a tremendous honor to be inducted into the Hall of Distinction. This is the pinnacle of all of the honors I have received. Thank you for this honor.