

Arthur L. Foston

THERE IS SOMETHING about Art Foston that makes you like him immediately. Even the telephone can't suppress his warmth and kindness. And his laughter, when he realizes this interview is being taped, makes you laugh.

It's his approach to life, the way he cares about people — his family, his students, the people he talks to worldwide via his ham radio operation.

"One of the first things my mother taught us," says Foston, the fifth of six children, "was to really look at ourselves in terms of our interests, our capabilities, our limitations, our hardships.

"In other words, take an inventory to find out what you are capable of doing and what you are interested in doing and *find a way to do it*. You have to do it by blood, sweat, tears and hard work ... and be honest, be fair. Don't be afraid to say, 'I don't know.' Don't be afraid to give, because life is a give-and-take process."

Foston is a giver — in his family life, where his wife, his son and daughter, and "those grandkids" are No. 1 — and at work,

where Art Foston is first and foremost a teacher, a professor of industrial technology.

The professor describes industrial technology as a technical management oriented program within the School of Agricultural Sciences and Technology. For some of us it's the "Ag School," but Foston is quick to point out that the school is more than just agriculture.

"Even though the school has been changing its image, they still use that



"The main reason for my wanting to work at Hughes Aircraft is that I can bring new technologies, new ideas and new concepts back to my students."

Professor, Industrial Technology

same abbreviation to describe it. In some respects we fall into the sciences too, so it doesn't mean that it's just dealing with the 'ag sciences.'

Indeed. If you go back a few years, it was Foston who originated the CSUF Industrial Technology Department's automated manufacturing program, known in the industry as "computer-integrated manufacturing." His original research has become a model for other industrial technology programs throughout the nation.

"You're going to hear a lot about this program," says Foston, with a satisfied smile. "Heavy industry and the automotive and aircraft industries are looking for a special

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