The California Institute of Technology has been shaped by people of vision — those who discerned what would be necessary to define the cutting edge of science and technology and who were unstinting in their energy to make that vision a reality. Among those people of vision must be counted Arnold and Mabel Beckman, who have played an extraordinary role in extending the legacy of Hale, Noyes, and Millikan.

Caltech was founded on the strength of private support. The future of American science continues to depend to a significant extent on that support, and it is people like the Beckmans who are ensuring that future.

On the occasion of the dedication of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Laboratory of Chemical Synthesis on April 25, 1986, this special issue of *Engineering & Science* celebrates an exciting new era in chemistry at Caltech, commemorates the coincident 50th anniversary of Beckman Instruments, Inc., and honors two people whose foresight and generosity have had, and will continue to have, a critical impact on scientific research and education.

Marvin L. Goldberger

President

California Institute of Technology

Marvin L. Holdberger