In this first part of the Festschrift, we hear from a selection of Bob Fischer’s colleagues conveying their personal impressions of his impact on the CALL profession and those who populate it. Woven throughout are repeated references to his intellect, commitment, humanity, and approachability.

The section opens with Mary Ann Lyman-Hager telling the story of how Bob Fischer came to pilot the organization and the journal through the troubled waters of the late 1990s in “Revitalizing CALICO: The Bob Fischer Project.” From her perspective as an Executive Board member during that period, she recounts how his dedication to the preservation of CALICO led him to the decision that would not only shift the course of his own professional life but arguably influence scores of others. Another longtime CALICO member, Kathleen Egan, follows with “Robert Fischer’s impact on the language teaching and learning field.” She discusses five areas that combine to give a sense of the breadth of his influence: his advocacy of CALL as an academic endeavor, his work improving the quality of \textit{CALICO Journal}, his support of and enthusiasm for the annual Courseware Showcase, his promotion of innovation in the field, and his own work as a courseware designer of the Libra multimedia environment.

Shifting to a more personal narrative, Robert Blake offers his “Reflection on Robert Fischer in France,” describing a chance meeting in 2005 en route to a conference. It was on the train from Paris to Compiègne that they first had the opportunity for an extended personal and professional conversation. Blake notes how the experience on that journey and throughout the UNTELE Conference over the next few days revealed the man’s sense of humor, collegiality, and dedication to CALICO. In a similar vein, Bonnie Youngs writes in “How I met Bob Fischer” of her first encounter with him in 1996, when he helped her and other “junior colleagues” learn to construct listening exercises on the Libra system at a Carnegie Mellon workshop. She describes his support throughout her career and illustrates how he has served us all in his varied roles as administrator, editor, researcher-scholar, and model mentor.

Ana Gimeno-Sanz and Françoise Blin provide a perspective on CALICO vis-à-vis its sister organization in Europe with “The emergence of a fruitful relationship
between EUROCALL and CALICO.” They describe how the connection began in the late 1990s through the collaborative efforts of Bob Fischer and the late Graham Davies, leading initially to the research policy statement endorsed jointly by CALICO, EuroCALL, and IALLT. More recently, through the combined efforts of Bob and the two authors (respectively the former and current president of EuroCALL), the two organizations have come to establish shared special interest groups, discounted memberships, and reduced conference fees. Finally, Barbara Lafford’s, “Robert Fischer: CALICO’s gentleman-scholar,” provides a review of his work, including not only his scholarly contributions and service as CALICO Journal editor and Executive Director but also his outreach to mainstream organizations like ACTFL to raise the profile of CALL among language teaching professionals. This piece incorporates a mosaic of perspectives from a number of CALICO colleagues: Bonnie Youngs, Dorothy Chun, Karina Collentine, Joe Collentine, Steve Thorne, and Julie Sykes.