

# Dr. Peter H. Armacost

## Will Assume

### University Leadership—

### First Change of Presidents

### in 32 Years

Dr. Peter H. Armacost, Program Director of the Association of American Colleges in Washington, D. C., in August will become the twelfth president of the University. He will replace Dr. Andrew B. Martin who is retiring after leading O. U. since 1935. A change of presidents in Ottawa is an infrequent event, so alumni and friends are keenly interested in the news.

The announcement was sudden, but expected. President Martin two years ago asked the Board of Trustees to name a committee to search for a replacement. Board Chairman Morris Eldredth appointed Dr. William Keuhner, Topeka, as committee chairman and Mrs. Fred Martin of Topeka, Dr. Gay Q. Brewster, '14, Lawrence, George Lister, '37, Ottawa and Ransom Bennett, Ottawa, as members.

The committee set up selection procedures and then began the search for a man meeting the standards. Dr. Armacost was a unanimous choice of the committee which on January 4 recommended him to the full Board. That body gave him unanimous and enthusiastic approval.

The choice was excellent. He is personable, dynamic with a sense of humility, experienced in the field of higher education and well prepared for his new role.

In his present position with the Association he works with the finest liberal arts colleges in the nation. Previously, he was Dean of Students in Augsburg College, Minneapolis. He took a Ph.D. degree from University of Minnesota with a major in psychology and special work in counseling.

Only a few alumni have met him as yet. Those who have, give him their hearty endorsement. Wilbur Wheaton, '54, Anaheim, Calif., for example said, after meeting the new president at AAC sessions in Los Angeles, "I saw Dr. Martin and Dr. Armacost in Los Angeles. Much impressed by the new man. Excellent selection."

Dr. Armacost decided to come to Ottawa only after several months of careful consideration. He evaluates highly the great liberal arts tradition and the educational progress made by the University. He senses, as do Dr.

Martin and other leaders, that a new era is opening for the University, one that will require increasing emphasis upon the academic program. As any able leader would do, Dr. Armacost will work with the faculty in charting program developments.

He is a young man, will be 32 when he assumes the presidency. His experience and background give him insight into the problems of liberal arts colleges far beyond his years. As a matter of fact, he was raised in such a school. His father is Dr. George H. Armacost, president of University of Redlands in California.

Dr. Armacost is married to the former Suzanne Lee Sadosky of Columbus, Ohio. (They met at Denison.) There are four children in the family. A gracious lady, Mrs. Armacost quickly captivated the people she met while in Ottawa last January.

Since the stories concerning the appointment of Dr. Armacost seemed to get around the nation, most alumni and University friends already have

# Good Preparation and Experience

the basic news. But the following facts may be of interest.

As Program Director of the Association of American Colleges, Dr. Armacost has responsibility for staffing both the Commission on Students and Faculty and the Commission on College and Society in its concern for graduate and professional education. He also planned the 1967 convention program for the Association.

Prior to his Washington position, Dr. Armacost from 1959 to 1965 was Dean of Students and professor of Psychology in Augsburg College, Minneapolis. During this time he was in 1962, a vocational counselor for the Veterans Administration Hospital in Minneapolis. In the summers of 1962 to 1966 he was a lecturer in Student Personnel Work and Higher Education in the University of Minnesota Summer School. In 1958-59 he was a teaching assistant there.

He earned a Ph.D. degree in 1963. Prior to that, he took a B.A. degree in 1957 from Denison University with a major in psychology and a minor in

economics. He graduated from Redlands, Calif., High School in 1953.

He took a year of post-doctoral work in Union Theological Seminary, New York, in 1962-63.

While at Denison he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, national honorary society. He is also a member of Pi Gamma Mu, Psi Chi, Omicron Delta Kappa and Blue Key honor societies. He was in the National Woodrow Wilson Fellowship program in 1957-58 and a Danforth Foundation fellow in 1957. He was named to the Society for Religion in Higher Education in 1962.

Active in educational circles, he is a member of several professional groups, his chief interest being the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators of which he is a member of the executive committee and the Director of the Division of Research and Publications.

He is also a member of the American Personnel and Guidance Association, the American College Personnel Association, the Society for Religion in Higher Education, the Liberal Arts Study Committee of the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. (He was a North Central coordinator in 1964-65.)

He has also been active in religious organizations, being now a member of First Baptist Church in Bethesda, Md., serving as a deacon and as a Sunday School teacher. While in Minneapolis he was a member of the University Baptist Church serving on the long range planning and the pulpit committees. He was also a chairman of the Board of Deacons.

From 1960 to 1965 he served on various boards and committees of the Minnesota Convention of American Baptist Churches—the Board of Christian Higher Education, the Campsite Development committee, the Camp Program committee, the Hospitality

Chaplaincy committee and the Grace Christian Center board.

He has already to his credit an impressive list of addresses and papers such as "A House Divided: Some Observations on Relationships Between Faculty and Student Personnel" for The Journal of the Association of Deans and Administrators of Student Affairs in 1965. Also, "Education for Service: Motto and Mandate for Christian Higher Education" before the North Central study committee in 1965, "Implications of Research on the Academic Freedom of Students," a address in 1966 to the American College Personnel Association, "The AUP and AAC Statements on the Academic Freedom of Students: A Comparison of Viewpoints" for NASPA in 1966, and "Higher Education: Social Adjustment of Human Liberation:

## New Home For the President

The Armacost family will live in Rockwood Acres. Through a very fortunate arrangement, the University trustees purchased the beautiful home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy D. Churchill at 27 Rockwood Drive.

Dr. Martin made the announcement and said, "This was made possible because of the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Churchill who wished to see the beautiful place become the property of the University."

The house was built in 1956 in the northeast corner of Rockwood Acres. President and Mrs. Martin will continue to live in their home at Tenth and Cedar streets.

Rockwood Acres is a mile from the main campus of the University but only a few blocks from the new area recently developed as physical education fields.

## Presidents of the University

I. S. Kalloch, 1866-1868

Philo Jesse Williams, 1876-1881

T. M. Stewart, 1881-1883

M. L. Ward, 1883-1887

George L. Sutherland, 1887-1890

Franklin O. Johnson, 1890-1891

F. W. Colegrove, 1891-1895

J. D. S. Riggs, 1895-1905

S. E. Price, 1906-1924

Erdmann Smith, 1924-1931

Andrew B. Martin, 1935-1967

Peter H. Armacost, president-elect, 1967-

(R. A. Schwegler was acting president, 1905-1906, and W. P. Behan was acting president, 1931-1935.)



**APPOINTMENT DINNER** on January 4, shortly after the election of Dr. Armacost shows the incoming president at the left and Dr. Martin the retiring president at the right. In the middle is Morris D. Hildreth of Coffeyville, chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Non-Student Perspective," a paper read before the United Campus Christian Fellowship last August and published later in "The Aim of Higher Education: Social Adjustment or Human Liberation?"

His primary responsibility with the Association is the Commission on Students and Faculty. When first employed by the organization, his basic work was consideration of the nature and causes of current student unrest, student movements and the ways in which liberal education may better meet the needs of students. More specifically, he has been working on the issue of student rights and responsibilities and helped the Association draft "A Statement of Desirable Provisions for Student Freedom to Learn."

He has also been working on proposals to improve the quality of undergraduate teaching and on a report on the graduate preparation of liberal arts college professors as well as directing other projects.

Dr. Armacost in a letter to faculty and staff members following appoint-

ment said: "The success of any college is, in the final analysis, determined by the quality and motivations of those who teach students inside and outside the classroom. I am thankful that Ottawa University is so richly blessed with a dedicated and capable faculty and administrative staff. My basic task is that of providing optimal conditions in which you can fulfill your call to develop liberally educated Christian ladies and gentlemen who are responsible and effective contributors to society.

"It has been said that this change in presidents marks the beginning of a new era in the life of O. U. The probability of change is undeniable. The essential basic affirmation, however, is that the historic purposes and traditions of this institution shall continue to be the foundation for any educational programs and the criteria against which they will be evaluated.

"I join you with no preconceptions as to which curriculum pattern, college calendar, or educational provisions will best enable us to achieve our ob-

jectives; indeed, I am quite impressed with the essential elements of the present academic program. Instead, I come with the conviction that the educational potency of any college is enhanced by constant attempts to clarify its educational purposes and assumptions, on the one hand, and periodic examination of the nature and quality of the learning experiences available to each student as means of achieving institutional objectives, on the other. I look forward to opportunities for such review and evaluation, with the broadest possible participation by the members of the college community. I do so with the conviction that, in its wisdom, the faculty will arrive at a consensus which will result in the continued development of a truly distinctive educational program.

"I look forward to our years together, confident by the grace of God and the dedicated service of each member of the Ottawa University community we shall continue the growth of Ottawa as a distinguished Christian college of liberal arts."