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Alan Gold

Ursinus College

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DR. WILLIAM SCHUYLER PETTIT NAMED TENTH PRESIDENT OF URSIUS COLLEGE TO REPLACE RETIRING D. L. HELFFERICH

DR. WILLIAM S. PETTIT

Dr. William Schuyler Pettit has been named the tenth president in the 101-year history of Ursinus College, it was announced by the College Board of Directors following a special meeting on September 25, 1970.

Dr. Pettit, longtime Academic Dean at Ursinus, succeeds Dr. Donald L. Helfferich, who formally retired from office after 12 years in the post at the conclusion of the college’s Centennial celebration in June, 1970.

Helfferich Named Chancellor

In a related board action, Dr. Helfferich was appointed to the post of Chancellor of Ursinus College. He will be the first man in the history of the college to serve in this position.

The new Ursinus president joined the college faculty in 1933 as an instructor in Chemistry. He was named Assistant Professor of Chemistry in 1938 and was promoted to full professor in 1944. He served as assistant registrar from 1948-1952 and was Dean of Admissions from 1952-1954.

Appointed Academic Dean

In 1954, he was named Dean of the College succeeding the late Dr. Maurice W. Armstrong.

In a 1969 campus administrative re-organization, he was named Vice President for Academic Affairs in addition to his post as Academic Dean; and despite his many administrative duties over the past 20 years, Dr. Pettit has continued to teach a course in Organic Chemistry.

President’s Academic Affiliations

Dr. Pettit is a member of Alpha Chi Sigma, national Chemistry society; Society of Sigma Xi; American Chemical Society; is past president of the Norristown Chemists Club; American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers; Eastern Association of Deans and Advisers of Men.

In addition, he is a member of the Newcomen Society; a Trustee of the Montgomery County Historical Society; and is a former member of the Board of Directors of the Montgomery County Health and Welfare Council.

He is former vice-chairman of the Montgomery County Red Cross, former president of the Worcester School Authority, and former chairman of the Worcester-Lower Providence School Authority. Dr. Pettit is a member of St. James Protestant Episcopal Church, Evansburg, Pa. and formerly a vestryman.

Native of New Jersey

Dr. Pettit is a native of Burlington, New Jersey where he was born March 19, 1909, son of the late Evans and Irene Schuyler Pettit. He graduated from Burlington High School and earned a B.S. in Chemistry and an M.S. in Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania. In November, 1969, Ursinus College awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science (Sc.D.) degree to him.

The new Ursinus President is interested in Colonial history, antiques and their restoration, bronze stencilling, tile work, and painting. In the latter, he works in water and oil, and more recently in acrylics.

Ursinus’ First Family

Dr. Pettit is married to the former Marion Burgees; and is the father of one daughter, Isabella, a 1967 graduate of Wilson College. The Pettits reside at 4581 E. Ninth Avenue, Collegeville, Pennsylvania; and maintain a summer home on Nantucket Island.

DR. DONALD L. HELFFERICH
URSINUS COLLEGE'S TENTH PRESIDENT

William S. Pettit and H. Lloyd Jones revisit the past in a 1932 Model "A" Ford Phaeton, the restoration of which is a hobby of Ursinus' new president.

Dean William S. Pettit teaching Organic Chemistry, a role in which hundreds of Ursinus students have known him during the past twenty years.

Dean Pettit confers with a member of the Ursinus College Board of Directors following Commencement exercises in 1965.

Dean Pettit crowns an Ursinus beauty queen at one of the many campus social functions he attends.

URSINUS COLLEGE -- GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

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THE EDITORIAL CONTENT DOES NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF UR SINUS COLLEGE


Mailing Address: Campus Post Office, Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa. 19426
"I Am A Member Of This Class . . ."

Dr. Donald L. Helfferich, President of Ursinus College, made formal announcement of his decision to retire in his address to the graduating Class of 1970.

"In a very real sense I am a member of this class," Dr. Helfferich told the gathering on June 6, "for which reason you may wonder why I am here. The answer is that I have decided to give public expression to the thoughts and sentiments which I have had about the things that I was given my opportunities to have."

Since Dr. Helfferich will be absent for the final days of his administration, the President's Portrait by Dr. Donald L. Helfferich is a reminder of his career and the contributions he has made to the college.

The HELFFERICH YEARS: 1958-1970

Dr. and Mrs. Donald L. Helfferich

"There are those who believe that the college today must take direct action in the public arena to bring about desired changes in the world. I am an old college man, and while I have had my share of the times, I believe that the college needs more than a hand to help it along."

"The college is not a political body, and I do not believe that it should be. But the college is a place where ideas are exchanged and developed, and where the young are challenged to think and to act."

"I believe that the college should be a place where the young are challenged to think and to act. But the college is also a place where the young are challenged to think and to act. And I believe that this is where the college should be."
A MAN NOT SOON FORGOTTEN