

Eugene P. Odum, President 1965

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PRESIDENT EUGENE P. ODUM

CONTENTS

**President Eugene P. Odum
Officers, Committees, and Representatives for 1965
Eminent Ecologist Award
Announcements
Mercer Award for 1964
Announcement of AIBS meetings at Urbana, Illinois
Program of AAAS Meetings at Montreal, Canada
Pesticide Pollution in Freshwater Ecosystems
New Members**

PRESIDENT EUGENE P. ODUM

The new president of the Ecological Society was born in Newport, New Hampshire in 1913, grew up in North Carolina and received his A. B. and A. M. at the University of North Carolina. After a year as part time graduate student and Instructor at Western Reserve University he continued graduate work at the University of Illinois where he received his Ph. D. in 1939. In the same year he was married to Martha Ann Huff, a fine arts graduate at Illinois. Their son William Eugene (Bill), is currently enrolled in graduate work in Fisheries Biology at the Marine Institutes of the University of Miami.

During 1939-1940 Eugene was Resident Naturalist at the Edmund Niles Huyck Preserve at Rensselaerville, New York after which he came to the University of Georgia as Instructor. In 1954 he became Professor, and in 1957 was appointed Alumni Foundation Distinguished Professor.

Eugene has pioneered in teaching of undergraduate ecology according to ecosystem principles and in the development of graduate work and research institutes at the University of Georgia. In 1952 he organized ecological studies at the AEC Savannah River Plant which have culminated in the establishment of a permanent laboratory and experimental field facility at the site, and in the formation of an Institute of Radiation Ecology on campus. He also played a major role in the establishment and development of the University of Georgia Marine Institute on Sapelo Island.

In 1945 the Odum brothers, Howard T. and Eugene received the ESA Mercer Award for their paper on coral reefs. For four summers (1957, 1959, 1960, and 1961) Eugene served as Instructor-in-charge of the Marine Ecology course at the Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. During 1957-1958 he held a National Science Foundation Senior Post-doctoral Fellowship for study and research at the UCLA Atomic Energy Project, at Hanford Atomic Products Operation, and at Oxford University, England. In 1961 he and Stanley Auerbach organized the first Radiation Ecology Post-doctoral Training Course at Oak Ridge. President Odum spent the spring of 1962 in Japan as an invited consultant on environmental research and education sponsored by the Japanese Society for Advancement of Science and the Ecological Society of Japan. He is currently a member of the Advisory Board of the Health Physics Division of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory, and has served in many other advisory capacities.

President Odum's publications include 4 books, 75 journal papers and numerous notes and reviews which cover a wide spectrum of subjects from descriptive ornithology to the energetics of ecosystems. His two textbooks on ecological principles, one designed for the Junior-Senior college student and the other for "the freshman and the citizen", are widely known throughout the world and have been translated into several foreign languages.

[130]

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