

Dr William Porges OAM

For his outstanding service to the University of Sydney.

Honorary Fellow

Conferring ceremony: 11 December 2015

Citation

Chancellor, it gives me great pleasure to present Dr William Porges OAM to you for an honorary fellowship of the University.

After graduating in Agriculture in 1960, William worked overseas for two years before returning to manage a farming and grazing property in Australia. He then returned to study, and upon completion of a Bachelor of Veterinary Science degree worked in a private veterinary practice. In September 1969 William joined the academic staff of the Faculty of Veterinary Science for three decades; he was awarded a PhD for his cardiovascular research and also completed a Graduate Diploma in Tertiary Education.

Since 1975 William has been associated with St Andrew's College, University of Sydney, as a visiting tutor and then as a non-resident Fellow. In January 1994 he became resident Vice-Principal and Wilson Fellow. This was a difficult period in College history and following the resignation of the Principal in 1995, Dr Porges was appointed Acting Principal in 1996 and became Principal in 1999.

He accepted the challenge of managing the conversion of St Andrew's into a co-residential college for men and women, and the first female undergraduates were admitted in 2002. Some alumni and some male residents continued to show distaste for co-residency, but William established respectful relationships between the genders, the basis of the successful residential life program that is the hallmark of St Andrew's today.

Whilst he was Principal at St. Andrew's College Dr Porges was also a builder. The construction of the Hanks Building in 2007 added 35 new en suite bedrooms, an Archives Centre and other benefits.

Hand in hand with his contribution to College, William dedicated the central thirty years of his life to the Faculty of Veterinary Science. Being educated in both Agriculture and Veterinary Science he was well equipped to contribute in a practical way to the education of students.

William was prominent in the development of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and became Associate Dean for Professional and Community Relations, retaining a connection with the Faculty of Veterinary Science following his full-time appointment at St Andrew's.

In 2008 he was appointed Adjunct Associate Professor in the Faculty. This recognised his extraordinary efforts around New South Wales in marketing the Faculty among school leavers. Dr Porges still travels extensively and productively in an honorary capacity to promote the University of Sydney. William is a dedicated advocate and the Faculty of Veterinary Science is much blessed.

In 2015, in recognising his service to tertiary education and to veterinary science, William was awarded an Order of Australia in the General Division.

Chancellor, I present Dr William Porges and invite you to confer the title of Honorary Fellow of the University upon him.