

# STANFORD UNIVERSITY NEWS SERVICE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STANFORD, Calif. -- Dr. Kenneth S. Pitzer, 54, president of Rice University since 1961, will become president of Stanford University, effective Dec. 1.

His selection was announced today (Monday, Aug. 19) by W. Parmer Fuller III, president of the Stanford Board of Trustees.

Dr. Pitzer will be Stanford's sixth president. He succeeds Dr. J. E. Wallace Sterling, who becomes life-time chancellor of the University Sept. 1.

Born and educated in California, Dr. Pitzer is a nationally prominent chemist. He has been a member of the President's Scientific Advisory Committee since 1965, and was recently selected to receive the 1969 Priestley medal of the American Chemical Society. He served on the Council of the National Academy of Sciences from 1964 to 1967 and has been a trustee of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching since 1966.

Dr. Pitzer taught at the University of California for 24 years before going to Rice. Active in faculty affairs, he served as vice-chairman of the Berkeley division of the UC Academic Senate and was chosen by the faculty to serve on its academic freedom committee following the loyalty oath controversy there.

During his presidency, Rice obtained court approval to charge tuition and admit Negroes for the first time in its history. Rice recently topped its \$38 million goal in a capital funds campaign. Under his leadership, its faculty has been significantly strengthened, particularly in the social sciences and the humanities.

Dr. Pitzer has remained active in both research and teaching at Rice. He maintains an office in the Chemistry Building, where he conducts research with a post-doctoral fellow, and teaches a graduate seminar in chemistry.

For more than three years, Dr. Pitzer has worked with undergraduate leaders to broaden student participation with faculty in curriculum studies and other educational committees at Rice.

His selection as Stanford's president ends a 17-month search by the trustees and a faculty advisory committee, following President Sterling's decision to retire early, which was announced in March, 1967.

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Commenting on the new president, Fuller said: "Stanford is fortunate to have a man of Dr. Pitzer's caliber to succeed President Sterling. Dr. Pitzer's academic credentials are of the highest order, and his record as president of Rice University is an enviable one.

"I have found him to be a man of ability, integrity, understanding, and fairness--all qualities essential to a successful university president."

Prof. William Baxter, law, head of the faculty advisory committee, said: "Dr. Pitzer's personal warmth, intellectual breadth and sensitivity, his outstanding record of scholarship and his long academic experience all give us assurance that he will lead Stanford effectively and with imagination. My colleagues on the Faculty Committee and I are delighted that he has agreed to join us."

Dr. Robert J. Glaser, vice president for medical affairs and dean of the School of Medicine, will serve as acting president from Sept. 1 until Pitzer assumes his new post.

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Born in Pomona Jan. 6, 1914, Dr. Pitzer received his B.S. degree at California Institute of Technology in 1935 and his Ph.D. at the University of California at Berkeley in 1937. He received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from Wesleyan University in 1962 and a Doctor of Laws degree from Berkeley in 1963.

Honored as a distinguished alumnus by both Cal Tech and UC, he was a member of the teaching staff and faculty at Berkeley from 1937 to 1961, when he went to Houston.

In addition to serving on the influential faculty committee on committees and the budget committee at Berkeley, he gained experience as an academic officer there. He was assistant dean of letters and science during 1947-48 and dean of the College of Chemistry from 1951 to 1960.

During World War II, he also was technical director of the Maryland Research Laboratory of the Office of Scientific Research and Development (1943-44).

Later, he became research director of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (1949-51). He served as a member of the AEC's General Advisory Committee from 1958 to 1965 and as its chairman during 1960-62.

In 1950, Dr. Pitzer won a Guggenheim fellowship. He received the Clayton prize of the London Institution of Mechanical Engineers in 1958 and the Priestley memorial award of Dickinson College in 1963.

Dr. Pitzer also is a fellow of the American Nuclear Society, the American Institute of Chemists, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Physical Society.

His memberships include the American Chemical Society, which gave him its award for pure chemistry in 1943, the Faraday Society, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Philosophical Society. From 1955 to 1960, he was a member of the Sloan Foundation's program committee for the physical sciences.

A contributor to numerous professional journals, he is the author of books on "Selected Values of the Properties of Hydrocarbons" (with others, 1947), "Quantum Chemistry" (1953), and "Thermodynamics" (with L. Brewer, revised 1961). He also edited the Prentice-Hall chemistry series from 1955 to 1961.

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He currently serves as a trustee of Pitzer College, Claremont, Calif., which was named for his father, and of the Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif. He is a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas and of Owens-Illinois Glass.

Designated one of 10 outstanding young men of the year by the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce in 1950, he served as a director of the Houston Chamber of Commerce from 1964 to 1966.

Dr. Pitzer married the former Jean Mosher in July, 1935. Since the late 1940's they have maintained a summer home near Clear Lake, Calif. They have three children: Ann, now studying computer applications in medicine at Houston; Russell, recently named an associate professor of chemistry at Ohio State University; and John, a Russian language student at the Army Language School in Monterey, Calif.

During Dr. Pitzer's presidency, the Rice faculty increased more than 50 percent (from 170 to 260 on a full-time equivalent basis). Undergraduate enrollment rose about one-third (from 1565 to 2100), while graduate enrollment increased nearly two-thirds (from 427 to 700). The number of Ph.D.'s conferred annually rose nearly four-fold (from 20 to 76).

Last year's graduating class (of 453 seniors) included 20 Woodrow Wilson fellows, 17 National Science Foundation fellows, two Marshall scholars, four Fulbright fellows, and one Danforth fellow.

Dr. Pitzer's interest in undergraduate education has been reflected in the start of an honors program, a substantial increase in students qualifying for academic honors, and a marked improvement in the four-year student retention rate.

He also has worked with students and faculty to strengthen academic involvement in the university's residential college system where two seminars in social problems will be offered this fall for academic credit.

Soon after Dr. Pitzer became president in 1961, Rice made an immediate faculty expansion, including 21 teachers in humanities, 10 in engineering, five in science, three in architecture, and one in physical education.

In 1962, Rice offered a new course and lecture series on the American political tradition, expanding ties between the university and the Houston community. It also established the nation's first department of space science.

Two years later, Rice initiated a new six-week summer enrichment course for 200 high school students, a highly successful, racially integrated program. It obtained court approval to admit Negroes the same year.

In 1964, a new program of grants to junior faculty members in the humanities for summer research began. The first inter-disciplinary effort to develop an artificial heart was started in collaboration with the Baylor University College of Medicine.

In 1965, Rice became the first university to gain approval for designing and building its own earth satellites under the NASA Explorer program. The following year, it established a new Center for Research in Social Change and Economic Development.

Last year, Rice opened its first permanent art gallery on campus. Construction is now starting on a new main campus building for the fine arts and social sciences.

Dr. Pitzer relaxes as a sail boat skipper. He stands 6'2" tall, has blue eyes, and greying brown hair. Besides Dr. Sterling, his predecessors as Stanford president include David Starr Jordan, John Casper Branner, Ray Lyman Wilbur, and Donald Bertrand Tresidder. ###