

E.A.
(PETER)

By ALEXIS SHIELDS

Dean E.A. (Peter) Robinson, Principal of Erindale College, University of Toronto, who has been with the college since it was in the planning stages, is resigning as principal as of July 1 to go back to lecturing full-time on inorganic chemistry.

Moving from acting dean in 1968 to the present position in 1975, he has seen the college grow and develop from a faculty of 13 to the present one of 200 people.

"As an administrator, my greatest accomplishment was creating a happy atmosphere," he said at a luncheon in his honor at the Mississauga campus. "It was the best thing I did. We don't fight each other here but work in a happy framework which is also good for the students."

After coming to Canada from England in 1958, he taught chemistry at McMaster University, moving to U of T in 1961. Discussing students and changes he said students have changed a lot and now are concerned, perhaps too concerned.

"There is a great pressure to take relevant courses," he said, "such as pre-medical, business and professional (such as law) programs. We at the College try to gear courses according to what they (students) may be doing when they get out.

"We try to persuade students to take an intellectually demanding program with inter-connecting courses," he said. "Specialization is a good way of becoming well-educated. Studying a particular discipline in depth is good for the mind.

"A person with a good specialist degree is very adaptable," said Robinson, "because you can apply this kind of thinking to other things. People often get into a psychological box where if they have studied nuclear physics, this is the only thing they think they can do."

Robinson was pleased with the image Erindale College has created for itself, especially in connection with the downtown Toronto campus. He pointed out that a beginners' course in French was started in Toronto only after Erindale had had it for a while.

Robinson was presented with several mementos from people of the College, including a glass man made out of test tubes and wearing a red sweater and a graduate's mortarboard and a picture of Lislehurst, the principal's official house.

The best surprise was kept until the end. A medal will be given to the student with the highest scholastic achievement each year at the four centres at the college in honor of Robinson.

Robinson received the first medal struck in the series, a unique one, plated in gold. The rest will be silver plated and will be called the E.A. Robinson Medal. The money for the medal was raised by donations from the university faculty.

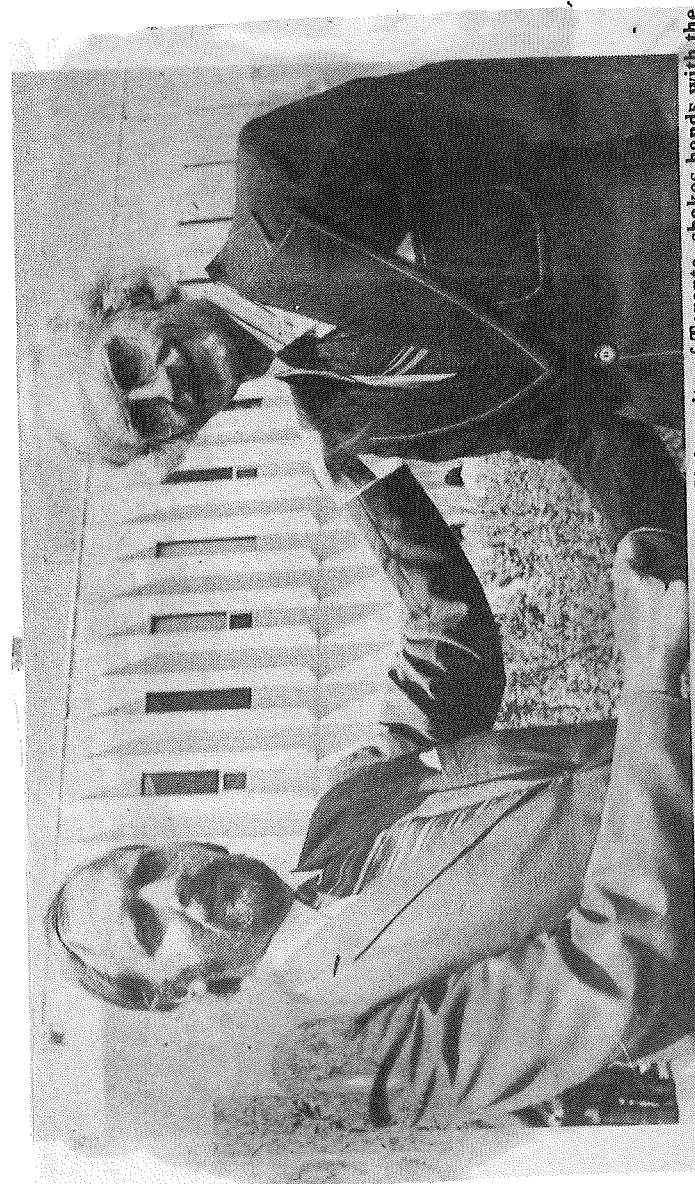
Commenting that he was looking forward to joining his colleagues in chemistry again, he turned over the administration of the college to Professor Paul W. Fox, who will take over on July 1.

The luncheon honoring Robinson was attended by 300 people, three times as many as were planned for, including Professor Des Morton, Professor Paul Fox, Dean Harry Taylor, Dean Howard Andrews, Tony Poe, discipline representative for the chemistry department and Arthur Borrmann, director of the technical services.

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*Paul Payton
Bing Bk*

Erindale's Robinson to retire



Dean E.A. Robinson, outgoing Principal of Erindale College, University of Toronto, shakes hands with the man who will take over as Principal on July 1, Professor Paul W. Fox, right, at a special surprise luncheon honoring Robinson. Photo by Fred Loek