

Release for Media
25 March 2005

ORMOND



COLLEGE

**Death of Revd Dr Davis McCaughey, AC,
Fifth Master of Ormond College**

Mr Andrew Michelmore, Chair of Council, and Professor Hugh Collins, Master of Ormond College, today paid tribute to the life and influence of Dr Davis McCaughey, whose death at home in Melbourne earlier today has been announced.

“Davis McCaughey was truly the architect of the modern College,” said Professor Collins. “By his astute leadership a College with 150 men in residence was transformed into a community double in size and with women admitted to full residential membership. His formidable scholarship reinforced Ormond’s academic character and achievements, as well as underlying his distinguished contributions to several universities in Victoria, especially the University of Melbourne. His ecumenical beliefs were reflected in the religious life of the College, in policies of social justice, and in his foundational contribution to the Uniting Church in Australia. Dr McCaughey’s interest in his students’ welfare was unfailing; the warmth of his concern for others was unmistakable; his capacity to recall names is legendary.”

The College has expressed its deepest sympathy to Mrs Jean McCaughey and members of the McCaughey family.

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Dr Davis McCaughey will be held in Ormond College at a date to be announced.

Background:

Dr McCaughey was Master of Ormond College in the University of Melbourne for twenty-one years, from 1959 to 1979. He and his family were resident in the College from 1953, when he arrived to take the Chair in New Testament Studies in the Theological Hall within Ormond College.

He was a member of the Council of the University of Melbourne from 1964-1967, 1976 – 1979 and 1982-1985, serving as Deputy Chancellor 1978-1979 and 1982-1985. He was a member of the Interim Council and, later, the Council of La Trobe University, 1965 – 1974.

His ecumenical activities included several significant appointments within the World Council of Churches (e.g., as member of its Faith and Order Commission, 1961-1975). He was elected Inaugural President of the Uniting Church in Australia, 1977 - 1979.

Dr McCaughey was Governor of Victoria, 1986 – 1992.

Contact: Professor Hugh Collins, Master. Mob.: 0408 572 383