

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER *and Chancellor's Medallion Recipient*

CHARLES W. ARMBRUSTER

began teaching at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in 1962 as a chemistry instructor. In 1964, he was appointed chair of the Division of Science and held that position until 1968, when he became chair of the Department of Chemistry. He was responsible for hiring chemists, physicists and biologists until the individual departments took over that role. In addition, he was mainly responsible for the technical aspects of designing both Benton and Stadler Halls.

As chair of the Division of Science and Department of Chemistry from 1964 to 1975, Armbruster was one of the most influential figures on campus. As indicated by former Chancellor Blanche M. Touhill in her book, "The Emerging University," during the 1963-64 academic year, Armbruster was the major influence on then-Chancellor James Bugg in the effort to urge him to change his goal of establishing a large, four-year institution into one that would offer graduate education through the doctoral level. Armbruster's efforts led to the establishment of PhD programs in chemistry and psychology in 1971.

Armbruster was admired and appreciated by the thousands of students to whom he taught introductory and organic chemistry

until his early retirement in 1992.

Even after retirement, he continued to teach a full load in the department, both during the academic year and the summers, and serve as the pre-medical school adviser until he left the St. Louis area in 1998 to move to Florida.

In addition to chemistry, Armbruster also taught Latin and music history, won numerous teaching awards, and was clearly remembered by graduates as the most respected teacher from the early days of UMSL. He was born in St. Louis and earned his bachelor's degree from Notre Dame University. He also attended the University of Heidelberg and Washington University in St. Louis, where he earned his PhD.

A baritone, Armbruster was a talented vocalist, pianist and organist. He was a soloist with The Bel Canto Chorus and the St. Louis Chamber Chorus and Orchestra, and when he left St. Louis, he was cantor for Temple Israel. For a time, he served as host of "The Lively Arts," a series of programs on the arts produced by KSDK (Channel 5). He was a founder of the St. Louis Early Music Society and an accomplished bridge player, having earned points toward becoming a life master. He was a noted racquetball player, a skilled gardener and an excellent chef.



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