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DAYTON, Ohio, July 1, 1968 --- The University of Dayton has learned that Arthur R. Peck, a 1959 UD graduate in chemical engineering, has earned his doctorate at The Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn despite total blindness. Dr. Peck, who also earned his M.S. at Brooklyn in 1962, has just recently accepted the gift of a seeing eye dog.

Dr. Peck, whose blindness has developed over a period of 20 years, was in the Merchant Marine during World War II. The 40-year-old veteran had lost his sight gradually as a result of two fires on merchant ships during the war. While studying at UD he could only see under very strong light and with extra-thick glasses.

Dr. Peck has been living in Brooklyn since his UD graduation. He had been able to get around his neighborhood until the last three months. Five muggings encouraged him to get the seeing eye dog, a female Collie-Shepherd guide dog, Yash.

The new Ph.D. accomplished his classroom and lab work in seminars and special conferences. He used his apartment as a classroom and received help from volunteer students and tape recordings. Much of his research work was brought to him by students who also typed his 120-page thesis, "The Analysis of Startup and Shutdown of Processes."

In speaking of the future, Dr. Peck displays the determination and optimism he has shown during his collegiate studies. "I know my opportunities might be limited," he says, "but being blind isn't that much of a nuisance."