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Colonel Edward L. Buescher Recipient of Distinguished Alumnus Award

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DAYTON, Ohio, October 25, 1972 --- Colonel Edward L. Buescher, M.D., a foremost leader in virological research and present Commandant and Director of The Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, will be the seventh recipient of the University of Dayton's Distinguished Alumnus Award. The award will be presented to the 1945 UD graduate at the annual National Alumni Homecoming dinner on Saturday, November 4, at 6:00 P.M. in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Union.

Colonel Buescher was chosen by a selection committee consisting of three alumni and two UD administrators. The award, established in 1967 by the National Alumni Association Board and University Relations Department at UD, is given to an alumnus of at least 25 years, "who has been prominent in their chosen field of endeavor or by reason of exceptional public service."

Successful in his fields of study and in public service Colonel Buescher qualifies in both award criteria. Born on July 24, 1925 in Cincinnati, Colonel Buescher received his B.S. from the University of Dayton in 1945. Three years later, he received his M.D. from the University of Cincinnati. He was awarded the Bronze Star in 1954. In 1965, Colonel Buescher was recognized international authority on respiratory diseases of viral etiology and insect-borne viruses with the Gorgas Medal. Colonel Buescher was one of the team which isolated and characterized the Rubella Virus as the cause of German Measles. His accomplishment allowed scientists to produce a vaccine to combat the disease. For his work, the President of the United States bestowed on him the Legion of Merit in 1969.

From 1948-50, he was the Research Associate for the Children's Hospital Research Foundation in Cincinnati. In 1951, he worked as a virologist in the Department of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases for the Army Medical Service Graduate School, at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. From 1951-54 he served as the Chief of the Department of Virus and Rickettsial Diseases in the Far East Medical Research Unit, for the US Army in Tokyo. He returned to the WRAMC as Assistant Chief of Medical Affairs in the Department of Virus & Rickettsial Diseases, and in 1956 he became Chief of the Department of Virus Diseases at WRAMC and WRAIR (Walter Reed Army Institute Research).

He was Director of Division of Communicable Diseases and Immunology at WRAIR, from 1967-70, and Deputy Director WRAIR from 1969-71. Currently he is the Commandant and Director of WRAIR, and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Georgetown University Medical School.

Colonel Buescher has served on many boards and committees in the fields of science. A few of his present activities include: Diplomate for the American Board of Microbiology; Fellow with the American Academy of Microbiology; Consultant for the Surgeon General, US Army, and for the Infectious Disease Branch of National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases; member of the American Association of Immunologists, the American Federation for Clinical Research, and the Commission on Virus Infections, Armed Forces Epidemiological Board.

Colonel Buescher has done much research and has had numerous publications, particularly on the description of natural history of Japanese encephalitis, and on the ecology of human respiratory diseases.
Previous Distinguished Alumnus Awards were given in 1967 to Dr. Carroll Hochwalt, '20, Director of the St. Louis Research Council and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.; in 1968 to Mr. Edwin Becker, '14, Judge of the Court of Common Appeals of Hamilton County, Ohio, and director, chairman, or president of several companies and groups in Ohio, and also to Mr. Alphonse Mahrt, '12, member of the Board of Directors of Mead Corporation until 1959 (Mr. Mahrt passed away in June, 1970). It also went in 1969 to Dr. Joseph Park, Ph.D., '29, Professor of Chemistry at the University of Colorado, and lecturer, author and recipient of many national and international education citations; in 1970 to Mr. John B. Alexander, '25, retired Vice President of the Southwestern Portland Cement Company in Los Angeles; and in 1971 to Dr. Martin Hillenbrand, '37, former Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs who is currently this country's Ambassador to West Germany.

Colonel Buescher resides in Silver Spring, Maryland, with his wife Elizabeth Fincel Buescher, two sons and three daughters. His eldest daughter is a graduate of UD, and one of his sons is now attending the University.