



Dr. Howard T. Odum, right, University of Texas Institute of Marine Science director at Port Aransas, received the Ecological Society of America's George Mercer Award for 1956 from Dr. Logan Wilson, University president.

THE GEORGE MERCER AWARD FOR 1956

The George Mercer Award for 1956 was divided between two brothers—Dr. Eugene P. and Dr. Howard T. Odum—in recognition of their co-authorship of a paper judged outstanding by the Mercer Award Scrutineers, "Trophic structure and productivity of a windward coral reef community on Eniwetok Atoll", published in *ECOLOGICAL MONOGRAPHS* 25 (3): 291 - 320. 1955.

Eugene Odum received his A. B. degree in 1934 and his M. A. in 1936, both from the University of North Carolina. A Ph. D. in ecology and ornithology was received from the University of Illinois in 1939, where he developed a special interest in the physiological ecology of organisms as a result of S. C. Kendeigh's influence. This interest has since broadened into research on the physiological ecology of populations and communities. Since 1941 he has been a faculty member at the University of Georgia and is the author of a textbook, *Fundamentals of Ecology*. He writes: "In addition to teaching and personal research, I have been especially interested in establishing ecology as a basic 'principles' subject and in developing a strong graduate program in ecology at Georgia. For the latter purpose

graduate students and colleagues have helped us obtain grants, including one from the Reynolds Foundation for the establishment of the unique Sapelo Marine Laboratory, where research is being centered around a study of estuarine productivity. It was in connection with an AEC grant that my brother, with his interest in flowing water ecosystems, and I, with my interest in sessile terrestrial and salt marsh systems, found a happy meeting ground on the coral reef."

Howard Odum received his A. B. degree from the University of North Carolina in 1947 and his Ph. D. from Yale in 1951 in the field of zoology. During the war he worked at the Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Porto Rico, and he has taught since then at the University of Florida and Duke University before accepting his present position at the University of Texas Institute of Marine Science at Port Aransas, Texas. He writes: "I feel most strongly five influences: (1) the love of the university from a sociologist father, H. W. Odum; (2) the fascination with the ecological from an older brother's early enthusiasm; (3) the dream of abstract conceptualization from G. Evelyn Hutchinson, one of the most remarkable of the world's teachers; (4) hard caution and a forecaster's resignation from the Air Force Meteorological experience; and (5) a spiritual alliance with water from the general human heritage."



President O. C. Aderhold, University of Georgia, presents the George Mercer Award for 1956 to Dr. Eugene P. Odum, member of the University Zoology Department.