

Obituary for the International Herald Tribune
February 16, 2010

Dr. Lloyd A. DeLamater, Founder of the American University of Paris

By Pamela M. L. Spurdon

Dr. Lloyd A. DeLamater, the American diplomat and educator who founded the first American college overseas, died on February 10th at his home in Nice, France. He was 87.

A visionary in the field of international education, Dr. DeLamater resigned from his post as a United States Foreign Service Officer assigned to the international staff at the NATO headquarters in Paris in 1960 in order to mobilize all the political and academic support required from the expatriate American community and conclude agreements with American academia, notably Ivy League schools, so he could convert his dream into reality.

Launched after two years of intensive preparatory maneuvering, the American College in Paris—now named the American University of Paris—opened with 100 students and classrooms leased from the two main American churches, a feat achieved with no financial assistance, public or private.

In the words of one of the early graduates, Steve Plummer, “Few can now grasp the sheer implausibility of this achievement...Start with approximately nothing except an idea, convince a board, a faculty and an administrative staff that there will be students, then go persuade the students and their parents that it will all amount to something!”

Today AUP has a student body of nearly 1,000 representing 100 nationalities and 110 professors from 25 countries. Perhaps the most culturally-diverse, small liberal arts college in the world, AUP currently offers seven Master of Arts programs.

Dr. DeLamater served as President of the college from 1962-1969. In 1963 he cofounded both the European Council of International Schools, the largest international educational organization in the world at the time, and founded the American Pre-College Program, the first full American academic summer program for high school students overseas. The following year he cofounded the American School in London. In 1972 Dr. DeLamater founded the Academy for Educational Development, then the largest nonprofit educational consulting firm, which was headquartered in New York City under Dr. Alvin Eurich, a former Chancellor of Stanford University.

A decorated young Naval Officer during World War II, Dr. DeLamater earned his B.A. and M.A. in economics at Columbia University in New York and was awarded his Doctorate of Economics *cum laude* by the University of Paris in 1954.

Of French descent himself, Dr. DeLamater married a French student on a Rockefeller Grant at Columbia, Marie Louise Viborel, whom he firmly regarded as cofounder of the college and who was responsible for student housing and cultural programs. He is survived by his widow, their three daughters—Anne, Clara, and Ariane—and their son-in-law, Dr. Jacob Sagi, and their grandson, Victor.

The funeral will be held privately. A memorial service for everyone is planned for mid-May in Paris. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his name to the Afghan-Pakistani education program www.ikat.org or Amnesty International or the animal protection organization PETA.