



President Bill Rogers

Courtesy of College Relations

When I grow

an interview with Bill Rogers

SUSAN ALLEN
features editor

An architect, a musician, a minister, a leader of an intentional community—Bill Rogers entertained all of these ideas when contemplating his career when he was growing up. Never did he anticipate becoming a college president.

After sixteen years though, Bill is somewhat sad to see it ending. He describes these years as the most important period of his life. Leaving the people and the daily involvement here will be one of the toughest parts of letting go. He also quips that it will be tough to let go of his office and his secretary's constant assistance.

Bill's announcement last year that he was planning to leave the presidency came to some as a surprise, but he says it should not have been. Rogers, who will be 65 next year, wants to leave while he is still doing "spirited good work," rather than staying until he can no longer serve the college competently.

Still holding his professorships in both the religion and psychology departments, Bill plans to maintain contact with Guilford by returning to

the classroom in the future.

During his time at Guilford, many things have come to pass. Building new dorms, the apartments have been built, and the library has increased several times. Many of these terrific things have happened during the years that Bill has been president. One of the things that Bill is most proud of are the relationships he has built with the faculty here in that time.

The supportive and caring environment of the college has challenged and been challenged. Guilford is at root a place for growth, he feels, a place to be enlightened beyond the classroom.

This is a period of transition according to Bill. "It's not chaos, or from chaos," he remarks, "it's through chaos." In his mind, this is a mental step on the road to leaving Guilford, Bill feels

President Will

educational background

Degrees

- Kalamazoo College, A.B., 1954
- Chicago Theological Seminary and the University of Chicago, B.D., 1958
- University of Chicago, Ph.D., 1965

Positions held

- Assistant Professor of Psychology and Religion, Earlham College, 1962-66.
- Associate Professor of Psychology and Religion and Associate Dean of the College, Earlham College, 1967-70.
- Visiting Professor of Pastoral Counseling, Harvard Divinity School, 1969-70.
- Parkman Professor of Religion and Psychology, Harvard University, 1970-80.
- President, Guilford College, 1980-96.



Bill and Bev Rogers in Hege Library