



THE WILLIAM G. POLLARD SCHOLARSHIPS

ORAU
OAK RIDGE ASSOCIATED UNIVERSITIES

WILLIAM G. POLLARD

THE MAN

Nuclear physicist, author, teacher, administrator, and Episcopal priest—ORAU founder Dr. William G. Pollard balanced all of these roles during his 40-year career.

A native of New York state, Pollard moved to Tennessee with his family at the age of 12. He received his B.A. from the University of Tennessee (UT) in 1932, the same year he married his wife, Marcella, and began a graduate fellowship in the fall at Rice University. His studies culminated in the receipt of his Ph.D. in physics from Rice in 1935. Throughout his career he also received honorary doctorates in science, divinity, law, and humane letters from 12 colleges and universities.



HIS CAREER

Pollard began his career in 1936, serving on the physics department faculty at UT. But World War II and the development of the atomic bomb forever changed his life.

In 1944, Pollard's reputation in physics took him to Columbia University for two years to work as a research scientist on the Manhattan Project. The cover name for his department was Special Alloys and Metals Laboratory, but it was here that staff of one of the most important units of the Manhattan Project conducted research on the gaseous diffusion method of extracting uranium 235—the explosive in atomic bombs—from common uranium. Pollard and his fellow researchers were told very little about the purpose of their work, and it was only after the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki that they realized the significance of their research.

ORINS/ORAU

Shortly after the end of World War II in 1945, Pollard and his family returned to Tennessee, and a casual conversation turned into a valuable undertaking that would affect the rest of his life. At a dinner party one evening, a fellow physics professor at UT reflected to Pollard that since the war was over, it would be nice if university researchers in the Oak Ridge region could have access to the federal government's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, which had far more elaborate facilities and equipment than any school could hope to have. This idea sparked Pollard's interest. A committee to investigate the possibility was formed with Pollard at its helm, and he began many trips back and forth between Washington, D.C., Knoxville, and the regional universities. He successfully built the necessary support of both the federal government and 14 southern schools, and the result was the formation of the Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies (ORINS) in October 1946. Pollard served as acting director of the new organization until one year later when he was elected executive director, a position he held until his retirement in 1974.

THE PRIEST

It wasn't until Pollard and his family had settled in Oak Ridge that he began to become more involved in the church. As the leader of ORINS, he considered the new organization his primary responsibility, but Pollard could not turn his back on the needs of the religious community that was trying to form in the relatively unsettled Oak Ridge area. Through his involvement in the development of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and participation in the services, Pollard himself grew more and more interested in theology.

Following rigorous studies, Pollard became an ordained Episcopal priest in 1954 and served as priest associate at St. Stephen's until his death in 1989. Throughout his studies, Pollard had to resolve in his mind a complicated marriage of science and religion. As he struggled with the issue, he came to believe, to put it simply, that science was a way of investigating the wonders of God's creations. In one of his sermons, Pollard cited the Genesis passage where God says to man and woman: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth." For Pollard, dominion over the earth included man's ability to control fire, metals, and finally nuclear energy—the focus area of his research. He did not build a nuclear fallout shelter in his home during the 1960s, saying that should such an event occur, he would prefer ministering to those suffering rather than hiding in a shelter.

HIS LATER YEARS

With total devotion to both ORINS and St. Stephen's, Pollard often worked seven days a week. Because his combination of careers was so unusual, he also received a good deal of attention from both academia and the media. This resulted in several lectures on the relationship of science and theology, and these led to the publication of several books, including *Chance and Providence* as well as *Physicist and Christian*.

In 1974, Pollard retired from his post as director of Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORINS' name changed in 1966), but because of his keen interest in nuclear energy, he continued for the next two years to remain active in the organization's Institute for Energy Analysis. Following a long struggle with cancer, Pollard died the day after Christmas in 1989 at the age of 78.

ORAU is renowned for its contributions to nuclear medicine, health physics, and education and training. It has grown to 87 member universities from throughout the United States and serves the government, academia, and the private sector in important areas of science and technology. It also manages and operates the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education (ORISE), which undertakes national and international programs in education, training, health, and the environment for the U.S. Department of Energy and many other governmental sponsoring agencies and industry.

Oak Ridge Associated Universities
THE WILLIAM G. POLLARD
SCHOLARSHIPS



The William G. Pollard Scholarships were established by the Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU) Foundation Board of Directors in the fall of 1996. The scholarships recognize the outstanding leadership and dedication to science and education of its founder, Dr. William G. Pollard, and celebrate ORAU's 50 years of service to higher education and the dedication of its employees.

The William G. Pollard Scholarship program honors outstanding high school or undergraduate students with a monetary award to further their undergraduate studies.

The administration of the scholarships and the selection of scholarship recipients are the responsibility of ORAU.

ELIGIBILITY

Sons and daughters and stepsons and stepdaughters who are dependents of regular full- and regular part-time employees of ORAU at the time of scholarship award are eligible to compete. Sons and daughters of deceased regular full- and part-time employees are eligible, if death occurred no more than two years prior to January 1 of the award year, and the employee had been on the active payroll for a total of at least two years prior to date of death. Sons and daughters of former ORAU employees who are currently on long-term disability as approved by TIAA and the Social Security Administration and who had been on the active payroll for a total of at least two years prior to the date of disability are also eligible.

Students may apply either while seniors in high school or enrolled in an undergraduate degree program. Scholarships are for study in any academic field or discipline.

CITIZENSHIP

Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent resident aliens.

DURATION OF AWARD

Awards are for one year. Students may reapply annually and win no more than twice. New application materials must be submitted each year. Applications from previous years will not be reused. Renewal applications and first-time applications are treated the same. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.

NUMBER AND AMOUNT OF AWARDS

Five awards may be made annually—two to college students and three to high school seniors. The amount of each award is \$1,200.

SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

All applications will be reviewed by a committee of nonemployees. Scholarship recipients will be selected on a competitive basis. Conflicts of interest or appearance thereof in the selection process will be avoided.

Applicants will be evaluated on the following criteria: leadership and services, work activities, awards and honors, personal and professional interests and goals, references, and academic record.

OBLIGATIONS

Students selected to receive a scholarship will receive an official offer from ORAU with specific terms for acceptance of the award. Scholarship recipients must enroll full-time in an undergraduate program at an accredited two- or four-year institution of higher education in the fall term following selection.

APPLICATIONS

The deadline for receipt of applications at ORAU is Tuesday, March 31, 2009. A complete application consists of: the application form, transcripts, three references (at least two from teachers), and a 500-word essay about the applicant's personal and professional interests and goals. Return applications to Ann Farler, MS 29, if mailed internally. If mailed externally, send to The William G. Pollard Scholarships, University Partnerships Office, Oak Ridge Associated Universities, P.O. Box 117, MS-29, Oak Ridge, TN 37831-0117 (phone number: 865-576-1898, fax number: 865-576-3643).

DATE OF AWARD

Awards will be announced in late April 2009 or early May 2009.