

Dr. Robert A. Patterson

Class of 1939

A specialist in business and financial management, Robert Patterson was senior vice president for finance and operations and treasurer at The Pennsylvania State University for 11 years.

As the number one financial officer for Penn State, he was responsible for management, supervision and direction of the University's budget (operations and development), intercollegiate athletics, purchasing, personnel, new construction, dormitory operations, food service, bookstore operations, security, litigation, investment and other financial activities. He was promoted to his position after working for three years as vice president for finance and treasurer.

Before joining Penn State, Patterson added to his business and financial career by working as an associate professor of finance in the Graduate School of Business at New York University. He was employed for 18 years by The Long Island Railroad Co., advancing to and serving as secretary and treasurer from 1962 to 1968. Additionally, he worked at Eastern Air Lines and the Pennsylvania Railroad Co. and REA Express. During World War II, he served with the Naval Air Forces in the North African campaign.

Other service included terms as director, Mid-State Bank and Trust Co. of Altoona; chairman of the board of the Penn State University Press, Ltd., and treasurer, Pennsylvania Research Corp. In 1981, then Pennsylvania Governor Richard Thornburgh appointed Patterson as a member of the Pennsylvania High-Speed Intercity Rail Passenger Commission. In 1979, he was named a trustee at Grove City after serving a three-year appointment as an alumni trustee. He became a trustee emeritus in 1999. In 1993, the Penn State Board of Trustees named Robert A. Patterson Hall, housing for graduate students, in his honor.

He passed away Oct. 20, 2006.

Additional degrees: M.B.A., New York University; Honorary Doctorate, Grove City College

Additional study: Ph.D. program, New York University

