Tsanoff Expresses Views On Education, Rice

By DOUGLAS HARLAN

"Every day — that's what counts!" This motto is the favorite thought for the day — every day — for distinguished Rice Professor Radoslav A. Tsanoff.

Dr. Tsanoff, born in Sofia, Bulgaria, on January 3, 1887, is a Trustee's Distinguished Professor of Humanities. Dr. Tsanoff, a graduate of Oberlin College and a Cornell Ph.D., came to Rice in 1914.

HE WAS A professor of philosophy and chairman of the philosophy department at Rice until 1956 when he retired and became professor emeritus. From 1959-1961, Dr. Tsanoff was at the University of Houston, and this fall he returned to Rice to teach two special humanities courses. These courses deal with the historical development of the ideas of our civilization.

A Phi Beta Kappa, Dr. Tsanoff has been a visiting professor at various colleges and universities including Boston University, University of Texas, and John Hopkins.

He has been a member of the board of directors of the Houston Symphony Society since 1931 and a trustee of the Museum of Fine Arts. He is past president of the American Philosophical Association (Western Division) and is a member of the Texas Folklife Society.

DR. TSANOFF is the author of many books, among which are "Nature of Evil," "Religious Crossroads," "Moral Ideas of Our Civilization," and "Ethics" (used by 200 colleges and universities as a text — from the University of Queensland, Australia, to Polytechnic Institute of Puerto Rico and from Harvard to UCLA catching nearly every school in between.)

IN A RECENT interview Dr. Tsanoff explained that "the beauty and satisfaction of teaching is sharing learning." He said that teachers have the same problem at their desks as students do at theirs: the idea is to be good — as good as you possibly can — not so good as Jones or Brown — but as good as you yourself can possibly be.

"Students and faculty together make the intellectual atmosphere as good as possible," he commented.

At Rice since 1914, Dr. Tsanoff has seen Rice grow. He knows Rice and loves her. He explained that "the good old days for Rice are in the past, but they are also in the present and will be in the future! Rice gets better every year, and it is growing all the time. A good university like a good individual continually has a chance to be better. What Rice will be in the future depends on what we make of her opportunities as well as what Rice makes of hers." Dr. Tsanoff went on to show that "here at Rice everybody has to do his share — students and faculty."

ASKED WHAT he thought about the idea that the United States is in decline and that we are in a similar state to that of the Romans before their downfall, Dr. Tsanoff emphatically replied, "Nonsense!"

He added, however, that we are not always in a state of growth and expansion and that we, as any nation, have ups and downs. He added, too, that "anybody that thinks he is never backsliding is backsliding in that idea."

On the study habits of Rice students, Dr. Tsanoff commented that Rice students should not have to stay up until 12:30 or later every night. He stated that with proper planning and use of time this unhealthy habit could be avoided. He explained that course work should serve as a stimulus to students to do other reading on their own.

DR. TSANOFF said that when he was an undergraduate he spent two hours in the library reading on his own for every hour of classwork. The habit of outside reading should help students be "as good as possible." In order to be this good, he urges all students to remind themselves that today is the important day — every day.