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WILLIAM DOUGALD MACMILLAN, III

For fifty years the wit of William Dougald MacMillan has sparkled across the campus, and his elegantly phrased and precise observations on the follies of mankind still echo. His career has been marked by impeccable style. He has served as a chastening reminder that the English language, properly used, is an instrument of prismatic hardness and brilliance. His achievements here have brought him a Kenan Professorship, the chairmanship of his department, and the Thomas Jefferson Award. Elsewhere his work has been recognized by many visiting professorial posts, a Fulbright Lectureship, and fellowships from the Huntington Library and the Guggenheim Foundation. He secured his reputation as a scholar by editing Studies in Philology, and by producing books of lasting value. And, in two wars, he put aside his books to serve in the military forces where he rose to the rank of major. As teacher, scholar, and gentleman, he has graced his offices and enlightened his colleagues. When he retired, friends quoted words once said about Samuel Johnson: "He has made a chasm, which not only nothing can fill...but which nothing has a tendency to fill...." Constant in his love of rational proportion, Dougald MacMillan would have been amused: "A man my size creating a chasm: what an astonishing idea!" The honor bestowed on him today confirms his enduring place in the heart of his University.