

JULIUS LEVONNE CHAMBERS

Julius LeVonne Chambers is an effective and courageous civil rights attorney, the President of the Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. Born in Montgomery County, he took degrees at North Carolina Central University and the University of Michigan before attending the Law School here, where he edited the North Carolina Law Review and was named to several honorary societies, including the Order of the Golden Fleece. He went on to Columbia University for his Master of Laws.

Mr. Chambers was the first intern with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in 1963 in New York; after some seasoning he established a private practice in Charlotte. Convinced that constitutional and legal structures provide the means for remedying racial injustice, he has skillfully handled numerous civil rights cases in the courts--but at a cost: his office was burned, his car bombed--and his house also, while he and his family were asleep; but he was undeterred. National recognition came to him when he successfully pressed three landmark cases all the way to the Supreme Court. One involved two-way busing in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system and the other two, brought under the Equal Employment Opportunities Act, involved racial discrimination in employment.

Mr. Chambers has taught seminars at several leading law schools, including Harvard, Yale, Pennsylvania, and Virginia. In 1971 he was presented the Columbia University Medal for Excellence and the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union's Frank Porter Graham Award. When as a law student here he became the first black editor of the North Carolina Law Review, a reporter telephoned Dean Henry Brandis and asked about his selection. The Dean's comment was terse. "He earned it," he declared. The same may be said of this Award: Julius Chambers has earned it.

HERMAN HOWE FUSSLER

Herman Howe Fussler, Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of the Graduate Library School, the University of Chicago, is a widely acclaimed authority on research libraries, especially in the application of modern technology. The son of a professor at this University, he earned Bachelor's degrees here both in mathematics and in library science; Master's and Doctor's degrees were awarded by the University of Chicago. He was appointed to the staff of the Library of the University of Chicago and rose to become its dynamic Director from 1948 to 1971. He assumed the Ryerson chair in 1974.

Professor Fussler has helped both to define and to guide the cutting edge of change in the great research libraries. While yet a graduate student, he published a fundamental work, Photographic Reproduction for Libraries, and he made the University of Chicago Library a leading center of micrographic work. He has explored new ways of employing computer technology to improve both the research capabilities and the efficiency of research libraries. Among his books on this theme are Development of an Integrated Computer-based Bibliographical Data System for a Large University Library (1967) and Research Libraries and Technology (1973).

Professor Fussler has often been consulted by major research libraries, and has served on important national and international committees. The American Library Association gave him its Melvil Dewey Award in 1954, and its Ralph Shaw Award in 1976. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This Institution now recognizes the distinguished achievements of this outstanding alumnus.

JANE SMITH PATTERSON

Jane Smith Patterson, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Administration, is a public-spirited politician, a designation she wears proudly. She attended UNC-Greensboro and this Institution, where she made her mark in student government. Ability, energy, and humane concern have marked her performance in a variety of important local, state, and national posts. She was named Assistant Secretary of the Department of Administration in 1977, Deputy Secretary in 1980, and Secretary in 1981.

Jane Patterson served her apprenticeship. It is said, in fact, that she first became a politician at age eight when she helped in a door-to-door mayoral campaign in her home town, Tabor City. She has deftly combined her role as wife and mother with that of a politician as she assumed posts of increasing importance. She was a founder of the North Carolina Women's Political Caucus, and she ^{has} served as a delegate to two Democratic National Conventions. In 1976 she negotiated rules affecting women at the National Convention with presidential candidate Jimmy Carter. As National Committeewoman in 1977, she served on the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Democratic National Committee. Mrs. Patterson has found time for non-political public service: she has been active with the Raleigh and Greensboro Junior Leagues, the YWCA, and other benevolent organizations.

As Secretary of the Department of Administration, Mrs. Patterson has been helping to chart the course for development in North Carolina for the next twenty years. Her outstanding performance has been widely recognized. With this Award the University now lauds the unflagging zeal and the remarkable accomplishments of this noted alumna.

WILLIAM EDGAR THORNTON

William Edgar Thornton is a scientist-astronaut, the first North Carolinian and the first alumnus of this Institution to travel into space. A Faison native, he demonstrated an early interest in inventiveness and electronics. After the death of his father, he operated a repair shop for radio and television which helped to pay his way through college and to support his mother. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree here in physics; after service in the Air Force and in private industry, he returned for an M.D. degree, and then resumed his career in the Air Force. He was chosen an astronaut in 1967.

Six weeks ago Dr. Thornton was at last able actually to conduct experiments in space, but he has for years applied his knowledge and inventiveness in the space program. He has investigated the medical problems of human beings in weightless situations and developed therapies for them. Of several devices that he has invented, one enables astronauts in space to exercise through simulated jogging and another accurately weighs human beings in space. Recently, with physicians at the School of Medicine here, he has been studying problems affecting the inner ear which cause space and motion sickness. These studies have important implications beyond travel in space.

Dr. Thornton worked for years for the coveted assignment that took him into space aboard the shuttle, but he has been described by friends as one of the most down-to-earth people you'll likely meet. Dr. Thornton has been given several awards by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Air Force, including the Legion of Merit. This University today expresses its pride in the career of this brilliant and pioneering alumnus.