

## HENRY ELL FRYE

Henry Frye's life has been characterized by determination and distinction. One of twelve children of a family in Ellerbe in Richmond County, he became accustomed to hard work from an early age. The foundation for his later achievement was laid by undergraduate education at North Carolina A&T University, by two years of service as an officer in the United States Air Force, and by legal training here, leading to the Juris Doctor degree with honors in 1959. Thus prepared, he embarked on a career which has been marked by four-fold achievement -- as attorney, teacher, legislator, and judge.

The legal practice he set up in Greensboro was interrupted by a two-year stint as Assistant United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina. After teaching law for a further two years at North Carolina Central University, he was elected to the first of six consecutive terms in the State House of Representatives. While a member of that body, he chaired the committee on Federal and Interstate Cooperation and a Judiciary Committee. In 1981 he was elected to the state Senate, serving at the same time on the Advisory Budget Commission and the Committee on the Future of North Carolina. Early in 1983, he was appointed by the Governor to fill a vacant seat on the North Carolina Supreme Court, and in the subsequent General Election was overwhelmingly returned to an eight year term. Thus, to earlier distinctions as the first Black United States District Attorney in the state and the first Black elected to the state legislature in this century, he added that of being the first of his race to sit on the state Supreme Court.

These are not merely statistical firsts. To each of these areas he has brought strength and sagacity. That definition of justice which speaks of rendering to each man according to his due is one which any University, not least this one, is committed to; and it is this kind of justice that we affirm by conferring on Henry Frye this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

DAA 1986

JEFFREY KENNETH MACNELLY

To have won three Pulitzer Prizes is an achievement shared by only nine persons in all; to have done so under the age of forty is unique. And to have done that while making people laugh as consistently as Jeff MacNelly has, puts him into the most select class of all, of those we would not willingly do without at breakfast.

Having spent nearly four years here as an undergraduate, he went to work for The Chapel Hill Weekly (as it then was) in 1969. After a year he moved to The Richmond News Leader as editorial cartoonist. In twelve years there he won his first two Pulitzers, the George Polk Award, and the top prize of the National Cartoonists Society two years running. In 1982 he joined The Chicago Tribune staff, while keeping his base in Richmond; his political cartoons are now syndicated in some 500 newspapers. An even larger number -- over 900 -- print his comic strip "Shoe," which features the avian journalists of The Treetops Tatler Tribune, the eponymous editor having a close connection with this University. Last year he was both inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame and awarded his third Pulitzer Prize.

In a cover story on him a few years ago, Newsweek magazine referred to Jeff MacNelly's "elaborate, finely drawn sketches" as having "a distinctive goofy gracefulness." Without on this festive day pretending to any particular goofy gracefulness of our own, we take delight in honoring the maker of so many finely drawn sketches with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

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JOHN ATTERBURY MONTGOMERY

John Montgomery's entire life and career have been spent in the South; indeed, he may be regarded as a prime example of the Southern scientist. Born in Greenville, Mississippi, he took bachelor's and master's degrees at Vanderbilt and came to Chapel Hill to complete his education. Since earning his Ph.D. in 1951 and spending a year here in postdoctoral research he has worked in Birmingham, Alabama, at the Southern Research Institute, which is among the nation's leading not-for-profit research institutes and perhaps dominant among them in the field of cancer chemotherapy, and where he is now Senior Vice President and Director of the Institute's Kettering-Meyer Laboratory.

His work here laid the foundations for a scientific achievement expressed in more than 350 publications. His research has been concerned largely with studies of the chemical structure and anti-tumor activity of certain drugs and their derivatives. He is recognized internationally for the development of three of the thirty or so drugs now used in treating cancer; a fourth is currently in clinical trial. He has also developed drugs that are successfully being used to treat viral and parasitic diseases such as malaria and those caused by the herpes virus. More broadly, his work has shed light on the correlation between the structure of drugs and how they function. His appointment in 1983 to the President's Cancer Panel, which establishes our national cancer policy, is an indication of how vital the scientific community considers these contributions to be.

His research accomplishments have won him many awards, perhaps the most prestigious being the Alfred Burger Award in Medicinal Chemistry of the American Chemical Society. All such recognition is, of course, quite secondary to the gratitude of the countless sufferers from cancer and other diseases who have been relieved by the fruits of John Montgomery's work; nonetheless, we are proud to add our own tribute through this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

## ROLFE NEILL

The editorship of The Daily Tar Heel has not infrequently led to positions of prominence in the world of journalism. The career of one such former editor, Rolfe Neill, has been marked not only by increasing professional renown but also by a growing influence throughout his native state.

His path has been an almost classic one. Following graduation here with an A.B. in History, and two years in the U.S. Army, he began as a reporter with a small-town paper in Franklin, North Carolina, progressing quickly to Charlotte and then, as editor, to newspapers in Coral Gables and Miami Beach, Florida. He then spent five years apiece in New York City and Philadelphia, in each case with a newspaper called The Daily News. As editor of the Philadelphia paper, he was instrumental in raising its character and reputation from that of a somewhat low tabloid to that of a family newspaper.

In 1975 he returned to this state, as President and Publisher of The Charlotte Observer. Under his leadership the status of this paper as a community servant and as a newspaper with a conscience and with great courage has been vastly enhanced. This was most strikingly evidenced by the award in 1981 of the Pulitzer Prize for Public Service for a series on byssinosis (brown lung disease), which also won five other awards.

Having been quoted as saying that "Journalists are missionaries," Rolfe Neill must be reckoned as among the most effective of that hybrid genus. Zeal tempered with good sense, the ability to communicate one's message vividly, an awareness of the impact of one's specific task on the wider community: such characteristics, shared by missionary and journalist alike, command respect and are reflected in the achievement we recognize with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

## BANKS COOPER TALLEY, JR.

To say of Banks Talley that he has distinguished himself in the fields of education, historic preservation, and the arts is true, but falls short of conveying the flavor of this alumnus's distinctive achievement.

A native of Bennettsville, South Carolina, and an army veteran, he took his undergraduate degree here in 1950 and subsequently earned our M.A. and a Ph.D. in Education. In 1951, soon after his graduation, he became Assistant Dean of Students at North Carolina State University and was based there for over thirty years, becoming in 1969 Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, a title he held until 1984. His administrative talents, having become widely known, were tapped for two one-year stints, as Executive Assistant to the Governor of this state in 1977-78 and as Executive Vice-President and Chief Operating Officer of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1983-84. The latter job was followed by permanent appointment to the position he now holds, as Executive Director of the North Carolina Symphony Society, Inc. There he is responsible for the total operation of the nation's first, and premier, state-supported symphony orchestra, and under his headship great strides have been taken towards consolidating its financial position and expanding its mission throughout the state while raising its artistic standards.

College students, venerable structures, and a major cultural institution as fragile and complex as a symphony orchestra, all require a special sort of oversight -- deft, unobtrusive, tenacious, committed. That kind of oversight, provided by Banks Talley steadily for over three decades, we today salute with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.