

THE THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

The Thomas Jefferson Award was established in 1961 by the Robert Earll McConnell Foundation and is presented to "that member of the academic community who through personal influence and performance of duty in teaching, writing, and scholarship has best exemplified the ideals and objectives of Thomas Jefferson."

1989 Recipient

WILLIAM BREVARD BLYTHE

William Brevard Blythe is a true Tar Heel. Born in Huntersville, North Carolina, his mother was a teacher of Latin and his father, a graduate of the University of North Carolina, a well known newspaper editor and author. Bill came to Chapel Hill in 1945 and his entire professional career has been devoted to the University. He received his A.B. in 1948 and after completing the then two year program in medicine, transferred to Washington University School of Medicine where he received his M.D. in 1953. Then followed a residency in Medicine and specialty training in Nephrology at North Carolina Memorial Hospital. He joined our faculty in 1960 and for many years has been Professor and Head of the Division of Nephrology. He was named Marion Covington Distinguished Professor of Medicine in 1987.

Bill Blythe is indeed a distinguished professor. In recognition of his research accomplishments in the area of diseases of the kidney and disturbances of body fluids, he has

been elected to membership in honorary societies. His advice and counsel have been sought by the National Institutes of Health, the National Kidney Foundation, the North Carolina State Board of Health, and the American College of Physicians. He is the only University of North Carolina alumnus to have served as president of the Medical Alumni Association while an active member of the faculty. In 1987 he received the Association's Distinguished Faculty Award.

He excels as a physician and teacher. He is a doctor's doctor with a vast store of medical knowledge but is remarkably sensitive to the personal needs of the patient, a physician exemplar. He is a stimulating and, at times, provocative teacher in the classroom and at the bedside. For good reason, he received the Medical School's Excellence in Teaching Award in 1985.

But his involvement and contributions are not limited to the health sciences and he is well known on the main campus. Fulfilling the Jeffersonian ideal of public service, he has been a member of the Chancellor's Advisory Committee, the Honorary Degrees and Special Awards Committee, the Financial Exigency Committee, the Committee on University Government, and the Established Lectures Committee.

Again in the Jeffersonian tradition, the written word is very important to Bill. He has long served on the Board of

Governors of the UNC Press and on the Editorial Board of the North Carolina Medical Journal. In the latter capacity, he regularly contributes insightful articles on the care of the patient, following the Jeffersonian example of bringing scholarly insight to practical concerns.

Also, like Thomas Jefferson, a gentleman farmer, Bill Blythe follows his tradition of public service and democratic commitment, scholarship, and intellectual breadth, honesty, and integrity. Like Jefferson, he has influenced those around him by remaining true to his own humanistic ideals in his personal life. It is for these reasons that the University is proud to present to him the Thomas Jefferson Award for 1989.