

MARIE WATTERS COLTON

In her seven terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives in the General Assembly, representing Asheville and Buncombe County, Marie Watters Colton has become an acknowledged leader in state government. She has sponsored legislation for the protection of the natural environment, for improved child day-care, for services to abused and neglected children, and for the reduction of infant mortality. She was the sponsor of the Art in State Buildings Law and has worked to guarantee the preservation of buildings of historic or architectural value in the state. In 1991 she was elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the House. This is the second highest elected position in the House of Representatives, and she is the first woman elected to serve in that office. Her leadership has been further affirmed by her selection to serve as Chair of the Committee on Ethics and Vice-Chair of the Rules, Appointments, and Calendar Committee. In recognition of her diverse contributions as a legislator, Representative Colton has been named Legislator of the Year by the North Carolina Sierra Club, the North Carolina Wildlife Federation, and the North Carolina Association of Social Services. This year she was chosen to receive a Distinguished Women of North Carolina Award given by the North Carolina Council for Women. Her contributions to the cause of historic preservation brought further recognition in 1992 in the form of the Ruth Coltrane Cannon Cup, the state's highest award in the field.

Born in Charlotte, reared in Edenton and Chapel Hill, she graduated from this University in 1943. She went on to work for the Army Signal Corps during World War II. As founder in 1979 of the Asheville chapter of the Friendship Force, she has served as host and traveled abroad on several Friendship Force international exchanges.

Her loyalty to her alma mater has never wavered over the years. She is today on the University's Board of Visitors and has served on the General Alumni Association Board and on the Board of Advisers of the School of Social Work.

For her eminent contributions as law-maker and dedicated citizen of her region, of her state, and of the world, we honor today Marie Watters Colton with this Distinguished Alumna Award.

JAMES GOODEN EXUM, JR.

Since 1986, James Gooden Exum, Jr., has been Chief Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court. During that time, his clear and scholarly opinions have made a permanent imprint upon the jurisprudence of North Carolina, even as he has worked steadily for the reform of the system of the state's highest court and in the selection and retention of its officers. He has been a leader in the field of criminal justice, serving as chair of the American Bar Association Criminal Justice Standards Committee since 1990.

President of Phi Beta Kappa, he graduated "with honors" from this University in 1957 and remains Permanent Class President. He went on to receive his Bachelor of Laws degree from New York University and, at the age of thirty-one, was appointed Superior Court Judge. In the same year he was elected as a Representative to the North Carolina House of Representatives. In 1975 he was elected Associate Justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Over the years, Justice Exum has serviced this University in a variety of roles: as an Adjunct Professor of Law, as a President of the General Alumni Association, as a member of the Board of Visitors, and as a member of the Central Nominating Committee of the Morehead Scholarship Foundation.

For a distinguished career as a legislator and jurist chosen by the people of this state to serve in its highest judicial office, and for his generous service to this University, we take pride in conferring upon James Gooden Exum, Jr., this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

FRANK RUSSELL REYNOLDS

Frank Russell Reynolds took his A.B. degree in 1941 and his Certificate in Medicine in 1943 from this University; he then went on to receive his M.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania one year later.

After returning from military service in World War II, he worked as interim resident physician at James Walker Memorial Hospital in Wilmington, North Carolina, during the poliomyelitis epidemic of 1947 and 1948, working with children in "iron lungs." In the late 1940s he established a private practice in pediatrics in Wilmington and eventually served as chief of staff at four different hospitals in that city. He worked tirelessly to establish Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) linking the U.N.C. School of Medicine with the counties of North Carolina. The current AHEC Program Director speaks of his contribution: "He was one of the leaders, and all that we have accomplished through the North Carolina AHEC Program, and especially the Wilmington AHEC, is a testimony to his leadership." Through both his private practice and the New Hanover County Department of Public Health, where he has been medical consultant for more than ten years, he has worked with dedication for indigent children in need of medical assistance.

He has been President of the North Carolina Medical Society, a member of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association since 1976, and President and Chairman of the Board of the Medical Mutual Liability Insurance Company of North Carolina.

For a career that has represented unselfish dedication to the health of the children of this state and for his readiness to serve as a creative innovator in health services, a medical administrator, and a businessman, this University proudly acknowledges Frank Russell Reynolds with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

EUGENE LESLIE ROBERTS, JR.

When Eugène Leslie Roberts, Jr., retired as Executive Editor of The Philadelphia Inquirer in 1990, after eighteen years in that position, Newsweek described him as "probably the nation's most respected newspaper editor." Little wonder! In that interim, the Inquirer garnered an astonishing seventeen Pulitzer Prizes. Among his many personal awards, he has received the Distinguished Contributions to Journalism Award from the National Press Foundation for his lifetime achievement in journalism.

After graduating from this University with his B.A. in 1954, he returned to Goldsboro, North Carolina, the town of his birth, as local government and farm reporter for the Goldsboro News-Argus. His career, however, quickly moved him to positions with The Norfolk Virginian-Pilot, The News & Observer in Raleigh, and The Detroit Free Press. In 1965 he went to work with The New York Times, first as Chief Southern and Civil Rights Correspondent, then as Chief War Correspondent in South Vietnam, and then as National Editor for three years before moving on to the Inquirer. "Without question, the turnaround of the Inquirer is one of the great things that's been done in American journalism in the last twenty years," according to Harrison Salisbury, a former editor of The New York Times. Eugene Roberts is today Professor of Journalism at the University of Maryland.

A member of the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame, he was the first President of the Board of Visitors of the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at this University. The School currently offers the annual Eugene L. Roberts Jr. Prize to an outstanding student in the School who writes a story that "answers not just who, what, where, when, and why, but also, 'so what?'"

Eugene Leslie Roberts, Jr., has relentlessly pursued the same questions throughout his own career, always with integrity and distinction, and we take pride in summoning him here today for this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

DONALD KEITH SULTAN

In the almost twenty years since his graduation from this University, Donald Keith Sultan has become one of America's foremost painters. One-person exhibitions of his work have appeared throughout the United States and Canada, as well as Paris, Rome, London, Madrid, Dusseldorf, and Tokyo. His paintings now make up a part of the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Museum of Modern Art, the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, and many other museums including the Ackland Art Museum at this University.

Born in Asheville, North Carolina, he took a Bachelor of Fine Arts from here in 1973 and then earned a Master of Fine Arts at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago two years later.

The critic Ian Dunlop has said of his work: "In fact, the whole world around him provides him with subjects. From the industrial landscape he has garnered images of chimney stacks and street lamps; from newspapers, photographs of fires, explosions, and airplane crashes; and from nature, the shapes of fruits and flowers, and indirectly the form of the human body. As a result, Sultan is one of the few artists active today who could be said to paint 'modern life,' the world of common objects and shared experiences which gives life today its edge or taste and distinguishes it from what has gone before."

In recognition of his extraordinarily rapid rise to the highest ranks of contemporary painting, we take special pride in conferring upon Donald Keith Sultan this Distinguished Alumnus Award.