

DAA 1993  
(Bicentennial)

## MARY ELIZABETH BURKETT

Determined to address the problem of North Carolina's alarmingly high rate of infant mortality, Elizabeth Burkett has made it her life's career to arrest and reverse that trend. Taking her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from North Carolina Central University in 1973 and her Master of Science in Nursing from this University two years later, she has been Perinatal Outreach Education Coordinator in the Division of Perinatal Medicine at the Duke University Medical Center since 1980. The position is one that was formally created in response to the work she had independently and successfully initiated. She is also a Clinical Associate in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the Duke Medical Center, as well as Assistant Director of the same Department's Rural Infant Care Program.

Not content with the programs of prenatal care confined within hospital walls, she has taken her expertise and experience to the poorer women of Durham County, as well as to those in the surrounding Warren, Vance, Franklin, Granville, and Person counties. Helping to establish health clinics in rural areas, she has worked to train staff and develop networks of support within the communities under her charge. She has traveled thousands of miles, always with an eye to improving the care of pregnant women handicapped by poverty and illness. Her work also touches those addicted to drugs and alcohol, and her services carry over into the education of new mothers.

Elizabeth Burkett was named March of Dimes Nurse of the Year in 1983 by the North Carolina Nurses Association. At that time, she defined her philosophy of nursing directed toward change: "I think it's important for nurses to get a chance to get away from their agencies and see that other people may do things a bit differently. Then they can go back to their agencies with new ideas. This brings about change." As an ambassador of change, she has emerged as an example to all health care professionals within the state and beyond. For her service, innovation, and compassion, this University hails her today with this Distinguished Alumna Award.

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## MARY LINDSAY ELMENDORF

A citizen of the world, Mary Elmendorf has devoted her career as an anthropologist, teacher, and author to the social problems confronting developing countries in Asia, Latin America, Africa, as well as this country.

Graduating with honors in Psychology from this University in 1937, she went on to do graduate work here in Public Administration and Social Work, and, later, in Anthropology and Sociology. She later took her Ph.D. in Anthropology from the Union Graduate School.

She worked as Chief of the Refugee Section of the American Friends Service Committee in Paris in 1945-46, the year before the American Friends Service was awarded the Nobel Prize for Peace. From 1952 to 1960, she was Chief of the CARE Mission in Mexico.

In the years since her work in Mexico, she has worked and traveled as a consultant for the World Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the Agency for International Development, the World Health Organization, and other agencies. A special interest has centered on the role of women in improving the supply of drinking water and sanitation. Mary Elmendorf has conducted feasibility studies, participated in evaluations of community programs, written essays and books, and served consistently as a catalyst for social change. A special focus has been on Mayan societies, and she is the author of The Mayan Women and Change (1972), a book that has also been translated and published in Spanish, and Nine Mayan Women: A Village Faces Change (1976). She has aided in the training of Peace Corps volunteers for the Dominican Republic and Togo. Last year she was a delegate to the Earth Summit conference in Rio de Janeiro and there gave an address on problems in world sanitation. In 1982 she received the Margaret Mead Award from the Society for Applied Anthropology and the American Anthropological Association for her role in improving health conditions in the Third World.

Today she is Affiliate Professor in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Florida; she has taught courses at Goddard College, Hampshire College, and the Union Institute. Acknowledging the influence of Frank Porter Graham as a mentor, Mary Elmendorf has attacked social problems at their domestic sources but always applying a global perspective. Her unique career of service to the victims of poverty throughout the world especially commends her for this Distinguished Alumna Award.

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## WILLIAM HAPPER

William Happer has long sought to bring the fruits of applied and basic physics to the service of the public order. Last spring, he completed a term of almost two years as Director of Energy Research in the Department of Energy where he oversaw a budget of \$3 billion dedicated to federal funding for basic energy sciences, high energy and nuclear physics, the Superconducting Super Collider, biological and environmental research, university and science education, fusion energy, and scientific computing. From 1987 to 1990 he served as Chairman of the Steering Committee of JASON, a select group of scientists and engineers who independently advise agencies of the Federal Government on matters of defense, intelligence, energy policy, and other technical areas.

The son of a Scottish physician and born in India, he returned to North Carolina, the home of his mother, a medical missionary. He began his career in science as an undergraduate Physics major, Morehead Scholar, and National Merit Scholar at this University, graduating in 1960. From here he went on to take his doctorate in Physics from Princeton University and began an academic career, first at Columbia University beginning in 1964, and then at Princeton, beginning in 1980. He has published extensively--over 100 scientific papers--in the areas of nuclear, atomic, molecular, and optical physics. In the early 1980s he was a co-inventor of the concept of projecting an artificial guide-star 100 kilometers or so into the sky by a ground-based atomic laser to compensate for atmospheric turbulence, a phenomenon that is already contributing significantly to the design of telescopes and to enhanced astronomical studies.

Members of the faculty in the Department of Physics here recall William Happer as "arguably the most imaginative student our Department ever trained." From those early years, William Happer has gone on to carve out a career as one of our eminent American physicists, and we recognize with pride his achievements by conferring upon him this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

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## JOSEPH QUINCY MITCHELL

"I specialized for years," writes Joseph Mitchell, "writing about outcasts and cranks and about unusual groups -- the fishmongers and fishwives in Fulton Market, the people on the Bowery, a band of gypsies, a band of Mohawk Indians who have no fear of heights and work as riveters on skyscrapers and bridges." Most of these memorable portraits and narratives appeared originally in The New Yorker, where he has been a writer since 1938. Eventually, they were published in books, now long out-of-print, like McSorley's Wonderful Saloon (1943), Old Mr. Flood (1948), The Bottom of the Harbor (1960), and Joe Gould's Secret (1965). In 1992, these works and others were collected in a book called Up in the Old Hotel, a work that earned unanimous critical acclaim. It was named by Time as one of the five best books of non-fiction for that year.

A native of Fairmont, North Carolina, he was a student at the University from 1925-1929 and was an editor of The Carolina Magazine. "I wrote a description of the tobacco market in Fairmont," he recalls, "which was published in the Sunday section of the New York Herald-Tribune. Largely on the strength of this, I went to New York City and became a newspaper reporter."

Among his many honors include election in 1970 to the American Academy and National Institute of Arts & Letters and the North Carolina Award in Literature in 1984.

Of his works, the critic Malcolm Cowley once said, "In his ... field, which is that of depicting curious characters, Joseph Mitchell is the best reporter in the country." More than reporter, he is also an artist whose work has defined authoritatively and unforgettably a portion of American life in this century set both in the city of New York and his native Robeson County in North Carolina. The University summons him today as a writer of unique stature to this special recognition of a Distinguished Alumnus Award.

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## JAMES DICKSON PHILLIPS, JR.

For almost a half century, J. Dickson Phillips has unstintingly dedicated himself to the study, practice, teaching, interpretation, and adjudication of the law. A native of Scotland County and graduate of Davidson College, he earned his Juris Doctor degree with honors from this University in 1948, having served as associate editor of the North Carolina Law Review. A parachute infantryman and platoon leader in World War II, he won a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. For eleven years he practiced law in Laurinburg, North Carolina, and Fayetteville, North Carolina, before returning to this campus in 1960 as a member of the faculty in the School of Law. He served with distinction as its Dean from 1964 to 1974. As a member of the North Carolina Courts Commission for ten years, he worked to establish the district court system of the state, the North Carolina Court of Appeals, and other reforms of the state judicial systems. The University conferred upon him its prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award in 1977 and an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1985.

Appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in 1978, Judge Phillips quickly assumed a position of leadership on that Court, developing a judicial style that one of his former clerks calls his "principled pragmatism." His opinions have had an important impact nationally, particularly in the areas of constitutional law, civil rights, federal jurisdiction and civil procedure, criminal procedure, voting rights, education of the handicapped, municipal liability, employment discrimination, age discrimination, and other issues. He has served as a member of the Advisory Committee to the Federal Civil Rules Committee working to overhaul the American civil litigation system.

In its "Lawyers' Evaluation" section, the Almanac of the Federal Judiciary describes Judge Phillips as "courteous; evenhanded; smart; knowledgeable, especially on procedure and constitutional law. Asks good questions, is always prepared, and writes lucid opinions." Retired Supreme Court Justice Lewis F. Powell, Jr., who has always taken a special interest

in the proceedings of his native Fourth Circuit, writes, "Throughout his tenure, Judge Phillips has been rightly viewed as an intellectual leader of the Court." More than merely a skilled legal technician, he consistently displays in his opinions a humane sensitivity to the personal consequences of judicial mandates.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., once said of the law that it is "forever adopting new principles from life at one end, and it always retains old ones from history at the other which have not yet been absorbed or sloughed off." Like that of few other jurists of his generation, the wise tenure of Dickson Phillips has been marked by the exercise of that complex judicial balance of adopting new principles and retaining old ones. The University rightly acknowledges his singular contributions to the jurisprudence of this country by conferring this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

## JAMES WORRELL PRUETT

The study and performance of music, both nationally and on this campus, have been richly enhanced by the efforts of James Pruett.

A native of Mount Airy, North Carolina, he earned his B.A. in Music in 1955, his M.A. in Music in 1957, and his Ph.D. in Music in 1962, all at this University. Even before receiving his doctorate, he was named Music Librarian in the Department of Music, a position that he retained for the next quarter-century. During that tenure, the Music Library grew both in the quantity and quality of its collection and is today recognized as among the nation's best, attracting scholars in musicology both nationally and internationally.

After being named Assistant Professor of Music here in 1963, he rose through the academic ranks, becoming Professor in 1974. Two years later he began a ten year term as Chairman of the Department. He was elected President of the National Music Library Association, serving from 1973 to 1975, and he became editor of Notes, the highly respected journal of the Music Library Association, from 1974 to 1977. His years of instruction as a distinguished teacher led to the writing and publication of Research Guide to Musicology (1985), as well as other distinguished articles, editions, and bibliographies.

In 1987, James Pruett became Chief of the Music Division of the Library of Congress, a position he still holds today. He oversees a Library of 10 million volumes, including autograph scores and rare musical instruments. He manages the largest endowment among the Library of Congress special collections. Since assuming that office, he has arranged for the acquisition of important archives of papers from the families and estates of Artur Rubinstein, George and Ira Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Aaron Copland, and Serge Rachmaninoff. He has initiated the program of compact disk recordings of archival holdings from the American music at the Library. His creative efforts at the Library of

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Congress also include, commissioning new music, arranging for concerts to perform it, and putting out publications and recordings

Assessing his own career, he has spoken of the satisfaction of "assembling knowledge and art for the future without any certainty as to how it all will affect the minds and souls of people to come." For the notable achievements of James Pruett as a teacher, scholar, librarian, and administrator, and especially his devoted dedication to the task of strengthening research in musicology, we honor him today with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

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## TERRY SANFORD

As one who earned his Bachelor of Arts degree and Juris Doctor degree on this campus, Terry Sanford can be claimed proudly as a special and prized son of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Soldier, attorney, state senator, governor, university president, political reformer, United States senator, and now teacher, he has graced the state and nation as one of a small handful of eminent leaders of our time.

As a paratrooper in World War II, this native of Laurinburg, North Carolina, won a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart, and other citations. After two years on the staff of the Institute of Government, he practiced law in Fayetteville, North Carolina, for twelve years. He served one term as a member of the North Carolina Senate. Elected governor in 1961, he quickly earned the title of the "education governor." Public school funding was markedly increased. Public junior colleges at Wilmington, Charlotte, and Asheville were converted into degree-granting institutions, and the state's Community College System was created. The North Carolina School of the Arts, now a part of the University of North Carolina, was established in Winston-Salem. For promising students of the state's secondary schools, the Governor's School was created as a summer educational program and continues to the present day. Governor Sanford also established the first State Arts Council, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the Good Neighbor Council.

Four years after his retirement as Governor, Terry Sanford began a sixteen year term as President of Duke University and led that institution to the forefront of private institutions of higher learning in this country. Elected to the United States Senate in 1986, he served on the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Committee on Budget; and the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Today he is Professor of the Practice of Public Policy Emeritus at the Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy at Duke University.

Terry Sanford has received many honors for his contributions to the public and private sectors, not the least of which was an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from this University in 1961. In his 1981 book A Danger of Democracy, he outlines a new approach to our election of presidents, drawing the following conclusion: "The inadequacies of our institutions appall us when we look up from our daily chores, and we cry out for vision and purpose and direction. It is time that we shook ourselves by our lapels and said, 'Look here, this is a great nation, and we can do whatever we aspire to do.'" This call to action is a summary of the mix of idealism and practical politics that has shaped his own remarkable career, and we salute him in recognition of his many distinguished attainments by conferring this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

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## LOUIS CORNELIUS STEPHENS, JR.

For a career combining leadership in business with public service to the state and region, Louis Stephens is a model with few peers.

Graduating from the University in 1942 with a Phi Beta Kappa key, he went on to serve as a Lieutenant Commander in the Pacific Theater in World War II. He took his M.B.A. degree from Harvard in 1947. He returned to U.N.C. in 1958 to complete the Executive Program in the School of Business. His loyalty to the University extends to the generation following him: each of his eight children earned degrees here.

He began his affiliation with the Pilot Life Insurance Company in 1949, eventually becoming its President in 1971 and its Chief Executive Officer in 1973. Though he retired in 1987, he remains a member of the Board of Directors of Jefferson-Pilot Corporation and Jefferson-Pilot Life Insurance Company.

In recent years, Louis Stephens has turned his attention to the Research Triangle Foundation and Park. He represented the Foundation on the Board of Directors of the Triangle Universities Center for Advanced Studies, Inc. (TUCASI), a consortium that holds land in the Research Triangle Park and houses the National Humanities Center and other scholarly programs jointly sponsored by this University, Duke University, and North Carolina State University. As Chairman of TUCASI, he supported the development of the Triangle Universities Library Network and the creation of the Triangle Universities Licensing Consortium. While Chairman of the Foundation he brought the National Institute for the Statistical Sciences and the National Headquarters of Sigma Xi, the Scientific Research Society, to the Park as future tenants on the TUCASI campus. During his five years as Foundation Chairman (1987-92), he also attracted many new tenants and worked aggressively to expand the southern part of the Park.

He has also served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the Board of Trustees of the North Carolina School of the Arts. He led the capital fund campaign for the construction of the new North Carolina Museum of Art. For a career marked by the creative synthesis of business, education, and the arts, and for his leadership in the Research Triangle Park, the University proudly honors Louis C. Stephens, Jr. with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.