

CITATION

CAROL ANN KEMP ASCHENBRENER was awarded the degree of Doctor Medicine by The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1971. She completed her internship and residency in pathology at the University of Iowa and joined its faculty in 1974. Proceeding rapidly through the academic ranks, she became a full professor of pathology in 1987 and has amassed an impressive record of academic achievement in her speciality, the morphology and epidemiology of brain tumors. Her scholarly work has been complemented by distinguished service to her university, her state and community, and her profession. She has held positions ranging from parliamentarian of the University of Iowa Faculty Senate (surely a skill not learned in medical school) to chair of the National Committee on Student Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges. Dr. Aschenbrener's talents as a scholar-administrator were recognized early in her career. By 1990 she had become Executive Associate Dean of the University of Iowa's College of Medicine. Subsequently, she served as chancellor of the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Her career achievements have made her one of the most distinguished women in academic medicine. For this her alma mater is pleased to salute Carol Ann Kemp Aschenbrener with its Distinguished Alumna Award.

AWARD STATEMENT

Carol Ann Kemp Aschenbrener is a 1971 graduate of our Medical School. After doing her internship and residency at the University of Iowa, she joined its medical faculty where she taught and conducted research in pathology. For four years she headed the University of Nebraska's Medical Center as chancellor. For career achievements that have made her one of the most distinguished women in academic medicine, the University is pleased to salute Carol Ann Kemp Aschenbrener with this Distinguished Alumna Award.

CITATION

HERMAN BLUMENTHAL proves the notion that one can measure a university's greatness by the achievements of those it nurtures. Like many of those who came of age during the Great Depression, Herman Blumenthal could attend UNC for just one year, in 1933-34. Yet one year in Chapel Hill helped prepare him for decades of quiet leadership which has improved the lives of thousands of North Carolinians. He left us for Charlotte, where he developed the family business, the Radiator Specialty Company, into one of the this state's largest privately-held companies. Later, Herman would entrust the education of his sons Alan, Philip, and Samuel to UNC.

For some, keeping a business competitive would deplete all resources; but not for Herman Blumenthal. He has lavished his time and energy on countless charities and civic causes, among them the Blumenthal Foundation, the Blumenthal Jewish Home for the Aged, the Blumenthal Center for the Performing Arts in Charlotte, Wildacres (a mountain retreat center for religious, cultural, educational, and civic non-profit groups), and the Wildacres Leadership Initiative. The appointment of a scholar in American Judaism at this University's Department of Religious Studies is but one consequence of his total devotion to the cause of understanding and harmony among Jews and Christians in this deeply religious South. Herman's personal philosophy is best encapsulated in his favorite quotation from William Penn: "I shall pass this way but once; / Any good that I can do, / Or any kindness that I can show, / Let me do it now. / Let me not defer or neglect it, / For I shall not pass this way again." Herman Blumenthal has dedicated his life to people and improving the conditions of their lives. For this, the University is pleased to honor him and his life's work with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

AWARD STATEMENT

Herman Blumenthal went out from Chapel Hill to develop what has become one of the largest privately-held companies in North Carolina. That would have been enough for some but not for him. He has lavished much of his time, energy and resources on making his state and community a better place to live. Mr. Blumenthal's personal philosophy is summed up in these words of William Penn: "I shall pass this way but once; / Any good that I can do, / Or any kindness that I can show, / Let me do it now. / Let me not defer or neglect it, / For I shall not pass this way again." For a lifetime of quiet service to humanity, The University honors Herman Blumenthal with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

CITATION

WILLIAM ALEXANDER DARITY has dedicated his life to the improvement of public health through research, teaching, and public service with a special focus on eliminating disparities in health outcomes across ascriptively differentiated populations. A North Carolina native, he received all of his formal education in this state, culminating in the degree of Doctor of Philosophy from this University in 1964. His undergraduate alma mater, Shaw University, honored him with a Doctor of Science in 1990. Early in his career, Professor Darity traveled extensively with the World Health Organization promoting public health in the Middle East. Later, he played a major role in establishing graduate programs in public health in Nigeria and Cameroon. Recently he undertook an exciting public health assignment in Egypt on behalf of the Population Council. His scholarly research has made important contributions in the field of public health, particularly the work he did on perceptions of family planning programs in the black community. For a quarter-century he served with considerable distinction on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, whose School of Health Sciences he headed as dean until 1989. From 1986 until 1991 he served on the UNC Board of Trustees where he was especially effective in urging the University to divest from companies doing business in South Africa, in pressing his concern for adequate fringe benefits for faculty and staff, and in emphasizing the need for the University to increase the presence of Blacks and Native Americans among its faculty and student body. Professor Darity's devotion to higher education is amply reflected in his own family. Among the four of them they held eleven degrees, no two from the same institution. This University is proud to claim his as our own and to add to his long list of distinctions this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

AWARD STATEMENT

William Alexander Darity's distinguished career epitomizes the three-fold mission of higher education in teaching, research, and public service. After a tour of duty with the World Health Organization he joined the faculty of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he embarked on a productive scholarly career and later served as dean of the School of Health Sciences. He is a past member of the UNC Board of Trustees. This University is proud to claim Professor Darity as our own and to honor him with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

CITATION

Yale law students in the 1960s said that the faculty was divided into two camps: old turks and young fogeys. LAWRENCE MONSANTO FERLINGHETTI might say that describes much of American today. Larry Ferlinghetti graduated from our School of Journalism in 1941. After taking a doctorate from the Sorbonne in 1951, he settled in San Francisco, where he became co-owner of the City Lights Bookshop, the country's first all-paperbound bookstore. Out of the bookstore grew the City Lights Books publishing house, and out of that came Allen Ginsberg's Howl in 1956. Howl precipitated Ferlinghetti's arrest on obscenity charges. The resulting trial, like the Scopes Trial or the March on Selma or the Roe v. Wade decision or the Stonewall Riot, was one of the defining moments of modern American culture. It changed our concept of art and our notions of the artist's role in public affairs. Ferlinghetti emerged vindicated, the Beat movement became a household word, and Larry became one of its most eloquent spokesmen. Ferlinghetti has authored several important collections of poems, most notably A Coney Island of the Mind. He continues his work today, most recently publishing WA Buddha in the Woodpile, which has this to say about the Waco incident: \If the inner ears of the inner sanctums / had only been half open / to any vibrations except / those of the national security state / and had only been attuned / to the sound of one hand clapping / and not one hand punching / Then that sick cult and its children / might still be breathing / the free American air / of the First Amendment. In appreciation for his seminal role in the development of modern American poetry, the University is pleased to present to Lawrence Monsanto Ferlinghetti this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

AWARD STATEMENT

Lawrence Ferlinghetti is an old turk in a world of young fogeys. His publication of Allen Ginsberg's Howl in 1956 was one of the defining moments of modern American culture. It changed forever our thinking about art and artists, made the Beat Generation a household word, and strengthened immeasurably the roots of the freedom of speech. His own poetry continues to engage his readers in a passionate consideration of the connections between the arts and politics. Speaking of his own success as a publisher, Larry once mused about \the enormous capacity of society to ingest its own most dissident elements. This venerable institution today confirms that insight by awarding to Lawrence Ferlinghetti its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

CITATION

JOHN PAUL NICKELL is among the very few who can be said to have created a new art form. In the early days of television, live drama of exceptionally high quality was a staple of prime time programming on shows such as Playhouse 90, Studio One, and Omnibus. Paul Nickell is recognized as perhaps the best pioneering director in this medium. Upon seeing live television drama for the first time, Paul immediately realized that it was not the stage and it was not film; it was a new art form that called for fresh insights and approaches. These Paul gave to the new medium in full measure. His work brought out the talents of such actors as Jackie Gleason, Helen Hayes, Orson Welles, and Charlton Heston. His pioneering productions brought us dramatizations of 1984, The Sinking of the Bismarck, Uncle Ed and Circumstance, and Naked City, to mention but a few. Paul considers his best work to have been the 1953 Studio One production of George Orwell's 1984, starring Eddie Albert and Lorne Greene. Ironically, this critically acclaimed work was seen by the network and sponsor as too dark and depressing for a mass audience. Thereafter, the quality of live television drama began a rapid decline from which it did not recover. Paul Nickell received the Master of Arts degree from this University in 1942 and returned to our faculty in 1967 after television turned its back on live drama and its face toward Hollywood and film. His teaching career has touched the lives and molded the talents of his students in ways that provide eloquent testimony to his creative genius. It is with great pride that the University recognizes one of our own, both alumnus and faculty colleague, with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

AWARD STATEMENT

It is with great pride that the University recognizes Professor Emeritus John Paul Nickell with this Distinguished Alumnus Award. There is no more eloquent testimonial to Paul's splendid talent as director, teacher, and mentor than this page from his scrapbook:

May 20, 1953

Dear Paul

The other night when we finished the show, I was unable to thank you properly or find the correct words as I was so filled with emotion and excitement it was impossible for me to think clearly. However, let me tell you now that your kindness, attention, and toleration _has made me everlastingly indebted to you.

Thank you very, very much and although this is only my humble opinion I know you are going to make a big, important, and respected name for yourself in our business.

So long for now and thanks again.
Your boy,
jackie gleason