

JOSEPH CARLYLE SITTERSON

For more than half a century, from the day he arrived on campus as a freshman from Kinston and even after his "retirement" two years ago, Joseph Carlyle Sitterson has given his best to this Institution, and we are all the better for it. The years between 1955, when he was appointed Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and 1971, when he laid down the Chancellorship, brought burgeoning growth; they also brought tumultuous disorders, reflecting a time of national stress. Resisting pressures from without and within, Chancellor Sitterson resolutely held the University on a steady course toward clearly perceived goals of academic excellence.

As Dean and as Chancellor, Carlyle Sitterson raised high the stature of the University. The number of departments highly ranked nationally rose markedly; the list of distinguished professorships doubled. The undergraduate program was enriched through an improved honors program and a system of freshman seminars. Student democracy was encouraged, along with greater student involvement in University affairs. Private gifts to the Institution redoubled through his efforts.

Teaching was his great love. Even as Chancellor, he lectured to overflowing classrooms, and he received an Award for excellence in undergraduate teaching. He is the author of important articles and books, among them The Secession Movement in North Carolina (1939) and Sugar Country: The Cane Sugar Industry in the South, 1753-1950 (1953). He was named Kenan Professor of History in 1961; while Dean, he served as Chairman of the American Conference of Academic Deans; as Chancellor, he achieved national recognition. The University now honors one of its own for his notable success over many years as teacher, scholar, and administrator.