

*D. Sc. 1994
(Biocentennial)*

JANE SHELBY RICHARDSON

Jane Richardson, in collaboration with her husband David Richardson and other scientists, has designed a number of artificial proteins. Her work has been widely acclaimed for the amino acid composition of real proteins in these designs. Her research has moved the world of science dramatically closer to an understanding of how proteins "fold," or arrange themselves, into their various functions in nature. She began her career as a crystallographer that led, in turn, to her discovery of the three-dimensional structure of real proteins. As a protein scientist, she has also brought her artistic skill to the design and drawing of protein shapes. These renderings have been reproduced widely in textbooks and other scientific literature.

A graduate of Swarthmore College and Harvard University, Jane Richardson is today James B. Duke Professor of Biochemistry at Duke University. Having worked as a Technical Assistant in the Department of Chemistry at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and General Physical Scientist at the National Institutes of Health, she arrived at Duke in 1970. She is author of more than forty scholarly publications. She has been elected a member of the National Academy of Sciences and named one of the prestigious MacArthur Fellows.

The Sterling Professor of Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry at Yale University, Frederic M. Richards, has written that "in the area of analysis and codification of protein structures, she is today without peer. Her body of work represents a major contribution to our understanding of protein structure and function." For a career that has led to groundbreaking discoveries in structural biology, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill proudly salutes Jane S. Richardson with this honorary Doctor of Science degree.