

Thomas Stephen Kenan III
Doctor of Laws

Few families have been so entwined with the history of this great university and so generous in advancing its interests as have the Kenans. Over the course of more than two centuries, members of the Kenan family have established thirty-eight trusts and funds supporting professorships, lectureships, scholarships, instructional programs, and buildings on our campus. Thomas Stephen Kenan III, Class of 1959, has been integral to furthering that great family tradition over the past several decades. Kenan's interests have focused on the intellectual and aesthetic life of the University. He was an early supporter of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities and continues to serve on its advisory board. He worked to preserve the integrity of the Dubose Home, its gardens and outbuildings, as the focal point of the Paul J. Rizzo Executive Education Center. He has been generous in support of the Wilson Library and its Southern Historical Collection. He has established scholarships for voice students in the Music Department and provided funding for educational programs and acquisitions of the Ackland Art Museum. Kenan was the moving force behind the restoration of the Campus Y and the planned restoration of Gerrard Hall. He has supported projects to improve the Coker Arboretum and the educational building at the North Carolina Botanical Garden, and through personal and family foundations helped with the Memorial Hall restoration and an endowment for its performance program. The thread that links these seemingly disparate projects is a deep appreciation for our cultural heritage coupled with an eagerness to facilitate new ideas and spaces. Kenan has served as a trustee of the North Carolina School of the Arts, the North Carolina Museum of Art, and of many charitable foundations, including the William Rand Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust and the Duke Endowment. His honors include the Order of the Golden Fleece (1990), the William Richardson Davie Award (1995), the General Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Medal (1996), and the North Carolina Award for Public Service (1997).