

STURGIS ELLENO LEAVITT, Kenan Professor of Spanish, Emeritus, graduate of Bowdoin(A.B.,1908), and Harvard(M.A.,1913, Ph.D.,1917), with the adventuresome spirit of his ancestors who arrived on the Mayflower, left the rock-bound coasts of Maine, his native state, to begin, in 1917, his long and fruitful career on this faculty, which culminated in his appointment as Kenan Professor in 1945.

A Yankee Conquistador, he became a Tar Heel, whose international reputation as author, editor, scholar, counsellor, administrator, and teacher have added luster to the name of the University. His students occupy important positions on the faculties of American and Latin-American universities; his textbooks are widely used; his unique bibliographies of Latin-American literature are found in libraries all over the learned world; and his studies of Spanish drama, written with wit and keen understanding of the Spanish stage and people, throw a penetrating light on the Siglo de Oro. One result of these studies was his investment last year into the office of Honorary Mayor in perpetuo of the Spanish city of Zalamena de la Serena.

Widely travelled in Europe and Latin America, Dr. Leavitt finds wherever he goes a warm welcome from his former students, and especially from those who attended the Winter-Summer Schools for Latin Americans which he organized and directed in 1941 and 1942, a unique and fruitful experiment in international relations.

He was organizer and first Director of our Institute for Latin-American Studies and our first Adviser to Foreign Students. He was instrumental in founding the South Atlantic Modern Language Association, and the Southern Humanities Association. As adviser to the United States Office of Education and to the American Council on Education, and as consultant at several universities and in the Department of State, he has shared freely his wide experience and humane learning, his talents and wisdom.

Learned without being pedantic, kindly without being sentimental, like Don Quixote, ~~he~~^{is} "valiant, polite, generous, well-bred, magnanimous, courteous, dauntless, gentle, patient," Dr. Leavitt represents, through his distinguished achievements, the finest traditions of the university he has served so long and so faithfully; and his colleagues take particular pleasure in honoring him with the degree of Doctor of Laws.