

**2024 Distinguished Alumna and Alumnus Award Recipients
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Presented at University Day 2024

Brian P. Golson, B.A. 1992

Brian Golson is a devoted Tar Heel who has made substantial contributions to his alma mater and its students. As a co-managing partner and co-CEO of Parthenon Capital, he has worked tirelessly to help students translate their academic accomplishments into successful and rewarding careers. Most notably, he was one of the original thought partners in creating Honors Carolina's highly successful Silicon Valley Maymester course and a parallel Silicon Valley internship program. He has been generous in coaching students and helping them reach their goals by creating internship opportunities, hiring recent graduates and encouraging dozens of other alumni to do the same.

Golson is passionate about recruiting top undergraduate students to Carolina and led the effort in 2015 to create the Honors Carolina scholarship program. The scholarships provide not only full financial support, but also mentorship opportunities with members of the faculty and scholarship benefactors. Golson was among the first to fund an Honors Carolina Scholarship and has since encouraged many other donors to support the initiative. To date, his family has funded two scholarships.

Since 2020, he has served as co-chair of the Honors Carolina Advisory Board. In that capacity, he helped Honors Carolina close the recent capital campaign with record-breaking results.

Golson has also served Carolina as a board member for the Rams Club and as a founding advisory board member for the Institute for Risk Management and Insurance Innovation, which fosters collaboration among researchers from multidisciplinary fields who share an interest in developing innovative solutions for managing financial risks.

Sharon Elizabeth Lawrence, B.A. 1983

Sharon Lawrence is an acclaimed actress who is well-known for her Emmy Award-nominated and SAG Award-winning portrayal of assistant district attorney Sylvia Costas in the popular television show “NYPD Blue.” Over the course of her career, she has appeared in nearly 120 films and television series, including roles in “Desperate Housewives,” “Grey’s Anatomy,” “One Tree Hill,” “Shameless,” “Dynasty” and “Joe Pickett.” Lawrence is also an accomplished stage actress whose credits include Broadway’s “Chicago” and the revivals of “Cabaret” and “Fiddler on the Roof.”

Lawrence’s first professional stage performance was with PlayMakers Repertory Company, and she has shown great generosity in sharing her talents with students at Carolina over the years. She is a collaborator and contributor to the Department of Communication’s Hollywood Internship Program, which for the past 30 years has sent up to 20 students to Los Angeles each summer to work with entertainment industry professionals and gain meaningful career-building experience.

In addition, Lawrence has personally mentored dozens of students and facilitated introductions of students to key executives in the entertainment industry. She has served as a guest lecturer for the Department of Dramatic Art, and she regularly participates in campus activities, such as meeting with students in the Writing for Stage and Screen program to offer feedback on how to write and develop complex female characters.

A former chair of the Women in Film Foundation, Lawrence currently serves as vice president of the SAG-AFTRA Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides career and educational support to performing artists.

Sallie Shuping-Russell, B.A. 1977

Sallie Shuping-Russell is a renowned leader in investment and financial management with more than 35 years of professional experience. She has helped found numerous companies, served as the managing director of BlackRock Private Equity Partners and has been a general partner focusing on early-stage venture investments at Intersouth Partners.

Shuping-Russell also co-founded DUMAC, the management company charged with overseeing Duke University's endowment and retirement funds. In that capacity, she was responsible for building the venture capital, private equity and energy portfolios. During that time, Duke led the nation in the return on its endowment.

Shuping-Russell has served the state of North Carolina in multiple ways, including as a member of the board of the North Carolina Biotechnology Center, a member of the Council for Entrepreneurial Development and a member of the North Carolina Technological Development Authority.

In addition to her distinguished professional success and service to the state, Shuping-Russell has devoted her time and talents to Carolina. She served as a member of the University's Board of Trustees from 2006 to 2015 and as vice chair of the University's Investment Board. In addition, she served on the board of the UNC Healthcare System and was a member of the Chancellor's Innovation Circle. Her service to her alma mater has been recognized with a Distinguished Alumni Award from the UNC General Alumni Association and a William Richardson Davie Award for extraordinary service from the UNC-Chapel Hill Board of Trustees.

Shuping-Russell earned an MBA from Columbia University Business School.

Gary J. White, M.S. 1994

Gary White has devoted his life to creating sustainable solutions to provide access to safe drinking water and sanitation to millions of people throughout the world. He is a humanitarian, social entrepreneur and innovator who leads Water.org and WaterEquity, two nonprofits he co-founded with actor Matt Damon to end the global water crisis.

White excels as an engineer, entrepreneur, financier, business advisor and humanitarian leader. He developed WaterCredit, which applies the principles of microfinance to the water sector by demonstrating how making small loans with affordable interest rates available in extremely impoverished communities can result in transformative benefit. In this case, more than 15 million microloans have allowed communities to immediately address their own water and sanitation needs. As international recognition of his work has increased, foundations have approached White for advice on attaining humanitarian goals, compounding the impact of his work across the globe.

Since 2003, White's nonprofits have helped provide access to safe water and sanitation for 70 million people in more than 18 countries. He has mobilized philanthropic capital and investment capital totaling more than \$5.7 billion toward achieving United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 of clean water and sanitation for all.

White's work has landed him on *TIME* magazine's list of the world's 100 most influential people, and he has received a World Social Impact Award from the World Policy Institute, the Forbes 400 Lifetime Achievement Award for Social Entrepreneurship, a prestigious Skoll Foundation Social Entrepreneur of the Year Award and recognition by former President Bill Clinton at his Global Initiative Conference.