

JOHN MARSDEN EHLE, JR.

This University has produced numerous writers; among them John Marsden Ehle, Jr. takes a special place. A native of Asheville, he came via infantry service in World War II to Chapel Hill, where he graduated in 1949 and took an M.A. in English four years later. While teaching in the Communications Center (now the Department of Radio, Television, and Motion Pictures) here, he began to publish the first of a considerable stream of books, by now extending to nine novels and five works of non-fiction, including the engagingly titled Cheeses and Wines of England and France, with Notes on Irish Whisky.

Simultaneously, however, he has worked with diligence and determination towards the fulfilment of his overriding goal: the provision of public secondary education in this state of a variety and quality scarcely even conceivable a quarter century ago. Starting from a position as special assistant to Governor Terry Sanford in 1963-4, he has pulled strings and prodded the recalcitrant; and, through his efforts on behalf of the School of the Arts, the School of Science and Mathematics, the Governor's School, and half a dozen such enterprises, he has, as much as any other single individual, been responsible for the unique reputation this state enjoys as the nation's leader in innovative secondary education. Most recently he has been involved in several programs aimed at identifying and supporting talented minority students.

Considered as either a creative writer or as a proponent of imaginative educational ideas, John Ehle is an outstanding alumnus; both capacities taken together, he is superbly deserving of this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

DAA *Everett* 1994

1994

KATHRINE ROBINSON EVERETT

Though Kathrine Robinson Everett may conceivably get tired of hearing recitals of her string of "first"s, it is a fascinating story. The first woman to finish at the top of her class at our law school (indeed, only the third woman to graduate from it); placed first among all candidates who took the state bar exam in her year (1920); a pioneer among women in arguing and winning a case before the North Carolina Supreme Court; one of the first two women to be elected to the Durham City Council (on which she served from 1951 to 1971); and, as wife, mother, and law partner, a member of the first family to be sworn in simultaneously to practice before the United States Supreme Court. Indeed, perhaps her most astonishing record has been to practice law successively with her late father (sometime mayor of her native Fayetteville), with her late husband, and with her son, who is now a Chief Justice of the United States Court of Military Appeals.

Beyond this string of records, however, there lie decades of legal and civic leadership which is outstanding in its own right. To such earlier recognitions as an honorary degree from Duke and the North Carolina Distinguished Service Award for Women, this University is happy to add its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

SARAH TAYLOR MORROW

Among scientific specializations none strikes a more immediately human note than maternal and child health care. So it is the good fortune of the state of North Carolina that one skilled in that field should have been found to become Secretary of the state's Department of Human Resources.

Sarah Taylor Morrow, who has held that position for the past seven years, comes to it prepared by undergraduate education in her native Charlotte and at Chapel Hill (B.S. 1942), and by medical training both here and at the University of Maryland, where she took her M.D. degree in 1944. Internship and residency, and marriage to a fellow physician, were followed by some years of twenty-four hour a day on the job experience as mother of six children. In 1953 she took up her formal medical career again as a County Health Officer in South Carolina, and six years later returned to Chapel Hill for a master's degree in Public Health. In 1960 she became Associate Health Director, and in 1968 Director, of the Guilford County Health Department. Her tenure there was made notable especially by the inauguration of a comprehensive Child and Youth project.

As Secretary of the Department of Human Resources, Dr. Morrow is responsible for all of the state's programs in public health and medical care. Despite intensive administrative demands on her time and the constant specter of fiscal restraint, she has consistently put services to the disadvantaged at the forefront of her priorities. This compassionate leadership, which has marked her entire career, is fittingly recognized by the conferring of our Distinguished Alumnus Award.

JAMES WESLEY SILVER

If the qualities this University most esteems are -- as a former Chancellor has characterized them -- integrity, courage, scholarly achievement, and service to mankind, James Wesley Silver exemplifies them as well as any person living.

A native of New York state, he took his bachelor's degree here in 1927, and in 1935 a doctorate from Vanderbilt. There followed some four decades of teaching history, almost thirty years (1936-65) being spent at the University of Mississippi. Despite obloquy from press and politicians, he was conspicuous in championing racial integration at that university -- and indeed throughout the state, most notably in his celebrated speech (later expanded into a monograph) "Mississippi: the Closed Society," described by a fellow historian as "the only presidential address to the Southern Historical Association which was front-page news in the New York Times."

An historian of distinction as well as an advocate of justice, Professor Silver is the author of seven books on the American South, including the just-published Running Scared: Silver in Mississippi. From Mississippi he went to the University of Notre Dame, and concluded his teaching career in South Florida, where he now lives in retirement.

The impact of this man's witness has been felt far beyond the state of Mississippi; indeed, our entire region is the better for the sustained idealism and liberal humanity of the Distinguished Alumnus whom we delight to honor with this Award.



SHERWOOD HUBBARD SMITH, JR.

It sounds either tautological or like a feeble pun to talk about enlightened leadership in big business when the person in question is head of one of the nation's largest suppliers of electricity. But in the case of Sherwood Hubbard Smith, Jr. the adjective is almost inevitable.

Born in Florida, Sherwood Smith graduated with a B.A. degree from this University (and membership in Phi Beta Kappa) in 1956 and a J.D. degree in 1960. After five years in the private practice of law he joined Carolina Power and Light as Associate General Counsel; within six years he was a vice-president, and in five further years president of that company, of which he is now chairman as well.

While rising up the corporate ladder with dizzying speed, he has also made considerable mark in national, regional, and local bodies for the public good. Conspicuous here are responsibilities (all roughly at the same time) as chairman of the American Nuclear Energy Council; as president of both the Microelectronics Center of North Carolina (in which capacity he undertook a mission to China last year) and the Business Foundation of North Carolina; as a trustee of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation; and as vice-chairman of the Morehead Scholar Central Selection Committee and a member of this University's Board of Visitors. Such a record of achievement and service demonstrates the interaction of business and public-interest concerns at its most fruitful, and amply justifies our conferring, with pride, this Distinguished Alumnus Award.