

1986 THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

Frederick Phillips Brooks, Jr.

Frederick Phillips Brooks, Jr. exemplifies the high ideals the University has associated with the Thomas Jefferson Award. Fred Brooks' intellectual depth, professional achievement, outstanding leadership, personal integrity, and service to society command the utmost respect. His presence here has been of tremendous benefit to the University, the community, and the State. He is a true native son: born in Durham, he grew up in the eastern part of North Carolina and attended Duke University, receiving the B.A. degree summa cum laude in physics. After earning the S.M. and Ph.D. degrees in applied Mathematics from Harvard he spent five years with IBM, rapidly rising to the position of Corporate Processor Manager for Development of System/360 Computer Systems. He is, in fact, called "the Father of the 360," a system of worldwide significance in the field of computer architecture.

Fred Brooks came to UNC in 1964 as the first Professor in the fledgling Computer Science Department, which he in effect created, establishing its curriculum and hiring its faculty during his twenty years as its Chairman. In 1975 he was named Kenan Professor. It is widely recognized that he has been instrumental in the Department's attaining its present high level of excellence.

He has as well been deeply involved with many projects outside his Department, and through his energy and skill has made great contributions to all of them. His success in these endeavors is also due to his belief in cooperative efforts -- not only with faculty members at other universities, but also with the non-academic public and private sectors, including State government, corporate business, and primary and secondary education. His ceaseless efforts to promote

the Research Triangle have led to much of the computer-related industrial and research activity there. His impact on the development of the Triangle Universities Computation Center is evident in its financial, technical, managerial, and educational aspects. And his belief in the importance of quality in primary and secondary education has been demonstrated by service on the Board of Trustees of Durham Academy from 1973 to 1980, the last three of those years as its President.

Fred Brooks is a deeply religious person and has given to his church faithful service over many years. Characteristically, part of this has been instructional: he has been a Sunday School teacher in the Orange United Methodist Church since 1968.

His research, teaching, and service in the field of computer science have earned him the highest honors, including the 1970 Computer Sciences Man-of-the-Year Award, the 1970 McDowell Award and the 1982 Computer Pioneer Award of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, membership in the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and in the National Academy of Engineering, and the National Medal of Technology. In 1983 he was appointed to the Defense Science Board, and in 1985 he became Chairman of its Software Task Force. The University has indeed been fortunate to have Frederick Phillips Brooks, Jr. as one of its brightest stars. We take special pleasure in expressing our deepest gratitude for his service by bestowing on him the 1986 Thomas Jefferson Award.