

ELI N. EVANS

Eli Evans has made a mark in each of three worlds -- philanthropy, Jewish history, and Southern studies. His path of preparation for such achievement ran from undergraduate days here, when he was both President of the Student Body and a member of Phi Beta Kappa (B.A. 1958), through duty in the Pacific as a naval officer, to Yale Law School (LL.B. 1963). Soon after joining the North Carolina bar he served on the White House staff for a year, following which he became Staff Director of then Governor Terry Sanford's Study of American States, the first major study of the future of state government in the wake of Great Society programs. Subsequently he was named senior program executive of the Carnegie Corporation. Among the grant programs he administered there was a very large one to increase the numbers of black lawyers in the South and another to improve educational television. In 1977 he became President of the Charles H. Revson Foundation, a new eighty-million dollar foundation concerned primarily with Jewish philanthropy and with urban affairs, especially in New York City.

In this capacity he came to be the driving force behind the 1984 award-winning television documentary series, "Heritage: Civilization and the Jews," which has been described as an interweaving of the Jewish thread into the larger tapestry of world history. An earlier, more local contribution to this history was his own book, The Provincials, a Personal History of Jews in the South, published in 1973, which centers on his experiences growing up in his native Durham. Next January Macmillans are to publish his biography of Judah P. Benjamin, Attorney General, Secretary of War and Secretary of State to the Confederacy.

Creator as well as facilitator, Eli Evans represents at the highest levels the sustained application of superior talent to the pursuit of things that matter. We are proud to have had some part in forming one in whom that pursuit has been so fruitful, and to recognize him today with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

## OSBORNE BENNETT HARDISON, JR.

O.B. Hardison, as he is universally known, is probably the only recipient of this Award to have spent part of his undergraduate years here living in a tent. This might reasonably have prepared him for a career as a soldier or perhaps as an explorer; instead, he became both a literary scholar of great note and a statesman in the world of letters.

None the worse for his tent dwelling, he took a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin and, after brief sojourns elsewhere, returned to teach in our English Department in 1957. In twelve years here he published seven books (one of which, Christian Rite and Christian Drama in the Middle Ages, was given the Haskins Gold Medal of the Medieval Academy of America), won the Nicholas Salgo Award for undergraduate teaching, and was named by Time magazine as one of ten distinguished university teachers in the nation. He also edited the venerable journal Studies in Philology, and was instrumental in setting up the Southeastern Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies. In 1969 he was lured to the Directorship of the Folger Shakespeare Library in Washington. While there he raised roughly thirty million dollars for expansion and continuing programs, vastly increased the library's performing arts activity, sent some of its treasures on a traveling exhibit for the first time, and established the Institute of Restoration and Eighteenth Century Studies -- all the while continuing to produce and edit books. Last year he returned to full-time teaching, as University Professor of English at Georgetown University, and next year he becomes President of the Renaissance Society of America.

A simple adaptation of Shakespeare's remark about Falstaff fits O.B. Hardison precisely: not only a scholar in himself, but the cause that scholarship is in other men. The verve and energy he has brought to his work have benefitted this University and the nation as a whole; this benefit we recognize, and its cause we salute, with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

DAF 1927

GEORGE MILLS HARPER

As one of the world's leading authorities on the poetry of William Butler Yeats, George Harper has distinguished himself in producing (in that poet's phrase) "with reverent hands/ The books of my numberless dreams."

The training for his career as a superlative scholar was completed in Chapel Hill, where he came for doctoral work after taking a bachelor's degree from Culver-Stockton College in his native Missouri and an M.A. from the University of Florida, and serving as a naval officer in World War II. In 1950, the year before he secured his degree here, he began as an Instructor in our English Department. Within nine years he was a full professor, and Chairman from 1962 until he left for the University of Florida in 1966. During his time with us he was also Chairman of the Faculty as well as of the Humanities Division, and Faculty Marshal. After three years of heading the English department at Florida and one as Dean of Arts and Sciences at Virginia Polytechnic Institute he settled at Florida State University, where he is now Lawton Distinguished Professor of English, Emeritus.

He is celebrated for his scholarly energy, which has produced publications in numbers astonishing for a humanist. Among them may be noted especially his recent and widely-praised The Making of Yeats's "Vision" (1986). His eminence in the study of modern Irish literature was recognized by the awarding of a D.Litt. degree by Trinity College, Dublin, in 1980, while the respect of his American peers is evident in his being elected to the presidency of the College English Association in 1975-76 and of the South Atlantic Modern Language Association this past year. "When George Harper is about," a former colleague has written, "challenges are met and the entire scholarly enterprise becomes an exhilarating adventure." "Exhilarating" means literally "making merry"; and on this occasion of sober merry-making we rejoice in conferring on George Harper this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

JUDITH ALBERGOTTI HINES

In Judith Hines compassion and efficiency, toughness and charity, have blended into a uniquely effective advocate of empowerment for the relatively powerless. Entering the University of North Carolina after two years at Agnes Scott College, she took a Bachelor of Science degree in Sociology in 1961 and then a master's degree in social work at Columbia. In her varied and productive career there have been two main thrusts. One has centered on human rights and community relations, most notably in her native South Carolina, as a member of that state's Human Affairs Commission and eventually its Chair. The other has been a concern for the needs of children and the handicapped. Among many achievements in this area she was Co-Chair of the Governor's Committee on Child Development in South Carolina, in that capacity heading a coalition of civic, political, and grass roots leaders which obtained public funding for a network of twenty day-care centers. She has directed variously a ghetto-based community center at a Charleston church, the Charleston County Mental Retardation Board, and the nation's oldest home serving disturbed children, an institution she saved from possible closing or bankruptcy. Most recently she has functioned out of New York City, as Director of Evaluation and Development of the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, a non-profit national social service organization which accredits over 500 United States and Canadian mental health and social agencies.

Many of those rightly honored by universities are familiar with the corridors of power. What Judith Hines has done has been to the least of those in our society. Whether through direct action, or by means of community organization, or in her personal life as the mother of five adopted, racially diverse children, she has exemplified those qualities of mercy, justice, and humanity which we are humbly privileged to recognize with this Distinguished Alumna Award.

ROY PARKER, JR.

In three decades as a practicing journalist, Roy Parker has become a notable presence in the political and cultural life of North Carolina. His centrality in this state may be said to have begun with the editorship of The Daily Tar Heel. After graduating with an A.B. in Journalism in 1952, he started his career by working for several small newspapers in the eastern part of the state. Soon he joined the Raleigh News and Observer, and for eight years was its Washington correspondent. In 1971 he became founding editor of The Fayetteville Times, a position he still holds and from which his influence spreads as a voice for political and social progress in the best tradition of the North Carolina press.

The focus of this influence is primarily the cultural vitality of the state. Two areas of concentration have been local history and the North Carolina Museum of Art. He is writing a history of Cumberland County for the state Division of Archives and History, a hands-on activity which adds credibility to his recent presidency of the North Carolina Literary and Historical Association. He has also just finished a term as president of the North Carolina Art Society, the membership arm of the state museum of art, of which he remains a Trustee. A Director of our General Alumni Association, he also belongs to the forward-looking group called the "Man Will Never Fly" Society.

Described recently as "a guy who's got North Carolina deeply ingrained in him," Roy Parker displays at its strongest that combination of professional excellence, dedication to the public good, and concern for cultural expression which puts him in the company of our choicest citizens, and which amply qualifies him for this Distinguished Alumnus Award.