

EDWARD G. BILPUCH

Edward Bilpuch embodies superbly the tradition of scientific enquiry in a University context. His entire professional life has been based on two institutions, this one and Duke. He came to Chapel Hill on an athletic scholarship in the great sporting era of the late 1940's, earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1950, and was named as one of the first graduate Morehead Fellows. After obtaining both our master's and our doctor's degrees, he moved to Duke as a research associate and subsequently a faculty member. Last year he was named Henry W. Newson Professor of Physics there.

His research has been marked by discoveries in high-resolution nuclear spectra, culminating in an experiment which set new standards for measurements of properties of atomic nuclei. He has pioneered in the investigation of nuclear energy levels and reactions; as a result, the Duke Physics Department is internationally known as a home of charged-particle, high-resolution physics.

Charged particles in competition being conspicuously observable in this area during the basketball season, it is specially appropriate to stress his devotion to perhaps the outstanding example of regional academic cooperation. This is the Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory, of which he became Director in 1976, and which is unique among such programs in the United States. In his leadership of this collaborative research venture involving one private and two public institutions, in his involvement in the advancement of physics in several developing countries, and in his own intensive research activity, Edward Bilpuch provides a classic scientific model, one which we recognize with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

GAIL GODWIN

In Gail Godwin's latest novel, A Southern Family, it is observed that the well-being of a principal character corresponded closely to how effectively "she was succeeding in transforming the raw material of experience into unifying shapes."

This is, of course, the function of any creative artist, and one which Gail Godwin has performed with a distinction that reflects credit on the institutions which shaped her. Born in Alabama, she spent her first two undergraduate years at Peace College in Raleigh and then transferred here, gaining a B.A. in Journalism in 1959. She later earned master's and doctor's degrees from the University of Iowa, where she taught for a time. She has also worked as a newspaper reporter, and for several years was attached to the U.S. Travel Service in London. Her first novel, The Perfectionists, was published in 1970; since then there have been six others, all highly praised, as well as numerous short stories and several co-authored libretti. Her work has been supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation.

Widely recognized as one of America's premier contemporary authors, she has illuminated notably the lives of people in this part of the country. Her excellence at the vital matter of "transforming the raw material of experience into unifying shapes" -- which, we may note, is also a fine way of describing much of the business of a university -- elicits admiration and gratitude which are expressed in this Distinguished Alumna Award.

RICHARD KNIGHT, JR.

The city is at once the richest expression of human society and the locus for some of our most intractable problems; and it is beyond question that the management of cities in today's world is an art of a high and demanding order.

Richard Knight prepared for his prominence in this field by working for the Durham city government and at the same time earning a Master of Public Administration degree here in 1977 (following an earlier B.A. from Fort Valley State College in Georgia and military service). The same year he was appointed Town Manager of Carrboro, thus becoming the first black manager of a predominantly white North Carolina municipality. Soon recognized as strikingly able, he served briefly as Deputy City Manager of Gainesville, Florida, before being named Assistant City Manager in Dallas, the largest city in the nation to have a professional manager form of government. When its Manager resigned in 1986 Richard Knight was tapped to be Acting Manager and shortly thereafter -- without even applying for the position -- was asked to take on the Managership permanently.

Skillfully guiding Dallas through myriad difficulties at a time when a depressed economy in Texas compelled deep cuts in the city's billion dollar budget, he has succeeded in finding ways for the city to do more with less, and has been instrumental in recruiting major new employers. Professionally active as, for example, Vice-President of the International City Management Association and past President of our Master of Public Administration Alumni Association, Richard Knight is an outstanding public official whose deftness in and devotion to his supremely difficult field we salute with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

THOMAS W. LAMBETH

Demonstrated leadership and genuine public service do not always go hand in hand. In the life and work of Thomas Lambeth, however, they are inseparable. The leadership was evident in his undergraduate years here (A.B. 1957), when he was elected to all the student honorary societies. Following some further work in history, a term of military service, and a brief spell as a reporter, he began his distinguished career of helping to ensure that important things go as smoothly as possible.

This career has been divided almost evenly between the political and the charitable spheres. He spent four years as Administrative Assistant to Governor Terry Sanford (being at the time the youngest principal assistant to a governor in the nation), and almost a decade in the same capacity to U.S. Congressman Richardson Preyer. Between those two assignments he worked on the administrative staff of the Smith Richardson Foundation in Greensboro. In 1978 he left Washington to become Executive Director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation in Winston-Salem. This Foundation, now over fifty years old, has made grants in North Carolina totalling more than \$140 million. His leadership there has been widely acclaimed as brilliant, and he has become a nationally recognized force in foundation work.

Anyone charged with responsibilities of the scope of those already described amply furthers the public weal; Tom Lambeth, however, has served additionally as trustee or director of numerous bodies and member of various commissions. Most noteworthy today are his three terms of service on our own Board of Trustees, of which he was Chairman from 1977 to 1979. Next year he assumes the Presidency of the General Alumni Association. Language adequate to his quiet achievement could easily seem fulsome or embarrassing. The name of today's distinction must be left to speak for itself as we confer upon Thomas Lambeth this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

ROGER MUDD

Much of our awareness of events in the complex world around us is derived from nightly consumption of one or another of the national television news programs. Roger Mudd has played a major role in three of these.

The sense of perspective which he brings to his presentation of the news may be related to his historical studies here, which led to a Master's degree in 1953 (following an A.B. from Washington and Lee and some teaching experience). Broadcast journalism soon claimed him, and he quickly passed from being news director of a Richmond television station, and then a radio and television reporter in Washington, to national prominence as a news correspondent for CBS, which he joined in 1961, specializing in congressional and national affairs. During a span of nineteen years there he frequently anchored the Saturday and Sunday broadcasts of evening news as well as compiling highly acclaimed special reports, for one of which he received the George Foster Peabody Award. In 1980 he moved to NBC as Chief Washington and Senior Political Correspondent, co-anchor of the nightly news, and co-host of Meet the Press. There he continued to be noted for his coverage of national political conventions and electoral races. Last year he became Special Correspondent and Essayist, and most recently Congressional Correspondent, for the MacNeil/Lehrer News Hour on Public Television.

The calm, reflective, and at times slightly bemused character of his reporting has both enlarged public knowledgeability and earned public confidence. The magnitude of his achievement in both these respects is acknowledged by this Distinguished Alumnus Award.