

FRANKLIN TAYLOR BRANCH

In an early book Taylor Branch says "a bad law enforcement official is much more harmful to society than a bad poet, but a good one is nearly as inspiring." That remark, suggesting both a passion for social justice and a commitment to artistic values, gives focus to his entire career.

He graduated from UNC in 1968, having earned Phi Beta Kappa, chaired the Carolina Symposium, and impressed acquaintances as a person of "unusual maturity, common sense, and carefully thought out positions" on the volatile issues of the time. Two summers later he was in Georgia, his home state, working in voter registration drives; and the diary he kept of the experience launched his career as a professional writer. Since then his subjects have varied. Two books are memoirs of people as different as John Dean of Watergate notoriety and Bill Russell of basketball fame. Another celebrates Washington "whistle blowers," those brave souls who alert the public to dishonesty and ineptitude in the federal bureaucracy -- a rich field. Yet another is a chilling account of the investigation of a political assassination in our nation's capital. And he has a novel of intrigue based on his own experience in Washington. Uniting these diverse books, however, is a Jeffersonian vision of the public good, a vision finding fullest expression in his most recent work, Parting the Waters: America in the King Years, 1954-1963.

A biography of Martin Luther King developed as a history of the civil rights movement, Parting the Waters has been richly honored already with a National Book Critics Circle Award and the 1989 Pulitzer Prize for history. He is currently at work on its sequel, Pillar of Fire. For his achievements and the vision they reflect -- and to cheer him on his way -- we are pleased to salute Franklin Taylor Branch with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

ANNE COFFIN HANSON

To become an authoritative scholar, a stimulating teacher, and a respected administrator may well be the classic goals in academic life. To achieve one or two of them is admirable. To accomplish all three, as Anne Coffin Hanson has done, is truly remarkable.

Born in Kinston, N. C., she displayed her adventurous spirit by traveling to Los Angeles for undergraduate work, her wisdom by returning to Carolina for a Masters degree in art in 1951, and something of her enterprise by creating the cave at the Rathskellar on Franklin Street while here. Her career began auspiciously with publication by the Clarendon Press in 1965 of her study of the beautiful fifteenth-century fountain on the Piazza del Campo in Siena. In 1970 she joined the faculty of Art History at Yale. Two years later she was named president of the College Art Association of America (the first woman to hold that important post), and in 1974 became chair of her home department (the first woman to lead a department at Yale). Her position as a world authority on Edouard Manet was recognized by the Charles Rufus Morey Award in art history for her Manet and the Modern Tradition in 1977. The next year she succeeded to the prestigious John Hay Whitney chair at Yale, where she continues the productive teaching so well represented by the book, The Futurist Imagination in 1983, a groundbreaking study produced by a seminar under her careful guidance.

We must suppose that such a rounded career results from her awareness of how great art resolves problems of diversity through proportion and harmony. On the present occasion we have the pleasure of highlighting the Carolina blue in the picture of Anne Coffin Hanson's career with this Distinguished Alumna Award.

ALEXANDER JULIAN, II

Imagination, enterprise, public spirit -- these qualities are cherished by the University in its sons and daughters, and nowhere are they exemplified more vividly than in the career of Alexander Julian, II. The well-worn caption **HOMETOWN BOY MAKES GOOD** is appropriate here, for indeed he grew up in Chapel Hill, attended UNC (the while managing his father's Franklin Street clothing store, then operating his own), left the Village in 1973, and by the end of the decade had established himself among the leading clothing designers in America. Now all of us know his work: from walking through stores, viewing our neighbors or "The Cosby Show" and "Family Ties," looking in our own closet, or watching the pleated Charlotte Hornets.

While expanding his range of designs and modes of merchandising, he has also been generous with his expertise for public enrichment. At the Whitney Museum of Art he serves as co-chairman of the American Fashion Council, and he is vice chairman of "500 Years," a Presidential committee working with several organizations to develop a historical exhibit of American clothing that will premier at the Brooklyn Museum in 1992, then tour the country. Additionally, he has established his own Foundation for Aesthetic Understanding, a foundation working through educational programs to increase children's awareness of the world of their senses.

His career has been stitched together by a succession of major professional awards. In 1977 he became the youngest designer ever to win the Coty Award for Menswear, and most recently (in 1988) he was presented the Cutty Sark Career Achievement Award in Clothing Design. Today we add our recognition of Alexander Julian's creativity, entrepreneurial achievement, and public service with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

WARREN WINKELSTEIN, JR.

Historically, epidemics rank high among the frightening facts of human experience. For ages they were viewed as natural disasters or divine inflictions, before which humankind was helpless. If today we better understand diseases affecting large numbers of people at the same time in a certain area, and if we have realistic hopes of controlling them, our progress is due in no small part to the science of epidemiology, a field in which Warren Winkelstein, Jr. has labored four decades with gratifying and widely recognized success.

After a B.A. from this University in 1943 and medical training elsewhere, he began his professional career in the early 1950s as an officer in the United States Public Health Service in Vietnam. Since then he has held a number of strategic public and academic positions, most recently serving as Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of California at Berkeley. Throughout his career, his research has been at the forefront of public health concerns: immunization for infectious diseases, the relation between disease and air pollution, and now the modes by which the AIDS virus is transmitted. In all of these areas his work has had life-saving results.

Just as his field work has focused on Vietnam and Japan, South America and Africa, Great Britain and the United States, so is his reputation world-wide -- attested by his service as consultant to the British House of Lords Subcommittee on Medical Research, a Gold Medal from the National University of Ascuncion, Paraguay, and a Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Syracuse Medical Alumni Association. During this fiftieth anniversary of our own distinguished School of Public Health, it is especially fitting that we bestow on Warren Winkelstein, Jr. this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

JONATHAN YARDLEY

Jonathan Yardley (there is no middle name) embodies superbly the tradition of literate journalism. Entering UNC in 1957, he gravitated to The Daily Tar Heel, which as a senior he edited. A few years after graduation, he became book editor of the Greensboro Daily News, then served in that capacity with the Miami Herald, and later the Washington Star. Since 1981 he has been book critic for the Washington Post. In addition to his newspaper work, he has published two books, a biography of Ring Lardner in 1977 and earlier this year his family memoir, Our Kind of People.

A critic is one who gives us informed and reasoned judgments. Acutely conscious of what another age would have called the theme of mutability, Jonathan Yardley has a knack for distinguishing the valuable from the meretricious or merely ephemeral in the human performance parading before him. His discernment and forthrightness are clear in a judgment of one of his ancestors, herself a writer and popular around the turn of the century. "She wrote slender books," he concludes, "that gave pleasure to many people, most of whom by now surely are dead."

His own work has not gone unrecognized. In 1981 he received the Pulitzer Prize for criticism. He has been a Nieman Fellow in journalism at Harvard and holds an honorary degree from George Washington University. He has been generous in acknowledging the role Carolina played in his development, and this University can only take pride in one whose work continually invigorates a tradition so vital to civilized life as the respect for books, learning, and artistic achievement. In Jonathan Yardley we are pleased to recognize such a one with this Distinguished Alumnus Award.