

1998 THOMAS JEFFERSON AWARD

STUART BONDURANT

Stuart Bondurant, M.D., served as dean of the School of Medicine from 1979 until 1994 when he retired as dean. Already having had one of this nation's longest tenures in medical school administration in the most demanding of times, Dr. Bondurant graciously responded to the needs of the faculty and chancellor by agreeing to return as interim dean in 1996-1997. His performance during the latter period epitomized his style and accomplishments throughout his tenure at Carolina. Thanks to Stuart Bondurant, the School of Medicine was in excellent shape when Dean Houpt assumed office in 1997. Dr. Bondurant's achievements as dean have affected the lives of most people in North Carolina through his leadership in the development of numerous biomedical centers and programs at Carolina. Several of them are nationally and internationally renowned.

He worked with UNC Hospitals to set the stage for and make possible the great expansion of this unique enterprise, which now comprises four public hospitals and a clinical cancer center.

He was a champion of students, especially medical and paramedical students. His work toward improving the curriculum has made our School of Medicine a leader in educational methods and standards.

He was a voice for reason and unity in the Division of Health Affairs and the University, standing always for mutual strengthening and respect for the aspirations of all units and members of the whole enterprise.

None save Bill Friday was a more effective ambassador to the General Assembly. His impact in that area on behalf of the Medical School, UNC Hospitals, and the University at large stands on a par with that of Walter Reece Berryhill, the founder of the present School of Medicine.

Under Stuart Bondurant's deft leadership the faculty prospered, enabling the School to bring unimagined growth in resources and excellence not only to the Chapel Hill campus, but to the state as a whole through AHEC, to which Dr. Bondurant gave unqualified support and encouragement.

Nationally, Stuart Bondurant's command of the major issues facing medicine and higher education resulted in his election at one time or another as president of every major academic medical society in the nation. He served in each of these positions with the high intelligence, civility and wit that mark him as a leader.

Through his personal qualities, peripatetic interests, clear vision of duty to the academy and to society, respect for teaching and scholarship, eloquent writing, and informed views, Stuart Bondurant is a living exemplar of the ideals and accomplishments of Thomas Jefferson. Had they met, one can readily imagine the range and liveliness of the conversations that might have occurred at Monticello over a bottle of one of Mr. Jefferson's fine French wines, but it is certain that they would soon have moved from the dining table to the study to begun planning new enterprises and moving those visions into action.

It is with the greatest pleasure, affection, and respect that the University confers today on Stuart Bondurant the highest honor that can be conferred on a sitting member of the faculty, the 1998 Thomas Jefferson Award.