

GEORGE ALEXANDER HEARD

George Alexander Heard, Chancellor Emeritus of Vanderbilt University, is among Carolina's most distinguished living alumni. He is a member of the Class of 1938 (Phi Beta Kappa, Order of the Golden Fleece) and was honored by the University in 1968 with the LL.D. degree. Upon completing his undergraduate work at Chapel Hill, Alex Heard, like many of his generation, put aside personal plans and ambitions to serve his country in a time of great world crisis, both in the diplomatic corps and as a naval officer. After the war, he resumed his preparations for an academic career and received his Ph.D. in political science at Columbia University. He then returned to his alma mater as a member of the faculty of political science and later dean of the graduate school. Alexander Heard quickly established a national reputation as a keen scholar and prescient academic statesman. As a graduate student he worked with the late V.O. Key, Jr., of Harvard in research that culminated in one of the greatest classics of American political science: *Southern Politics in State and Nation* (1949). His trail-blazing study of campaign finance, *The Cost of Democracy* (1960), and his prophetic 1952 book *A Two Party South?* addressed issues that are as fresh today as then.

The courage, foresight, and wisdom that have distinguished Alexander Heard as one of America's foremost leaders in the sphere of higher education is exemplified by a speech he made to the UNC Faculty Club in 1962. Chapel Hill had long taken pride in being the best institution in the South. Dean Heard said to his colleagues "The time has come to move on, to view ourselves explicitly in the future as oriented to the nation and to the universe as much as we have viewed ourselves explicitly in the past as oriented to the state and to the region." That call to action put into motion forces within the University that enable us today to aspire to be not just the best in the South, but the best public institution in the nation.

In 1963 Alexander Heard accepted the call to become chancellor of Vanderbilt University. He served Vanderbilt for two decades that were marked by expansion and increasing national stature for that great institution. Chancellor Heard served on several presidential commissions under presidents Johnson and Kennedy and was a trustee of the Ford Foundation for twenty years, serving as chair of the board from 1972 to 1987. Alex Heard has returned to Chapel Hill frequently over the years to deliver addresses and lectures, participate in reunions of the Class of 1938, and visit old friends. We welcome him home today for yet one more honor.

BERTHA MERRILL HOLT

Bertha Merrill Holt enrolled in the UNC School of Law in 1939 when few women dared cross the threshold of that male bastion and attended for two years before transferring to the University of Alabama where she earned her LL.B degree. After an early career as an attorney with the United States Department of the Interior and the United States Department of the Treasury, B Holt resolved to devote her middle years to her husband and three children.

B Holt was appointed to fill a vacancy in the House of Representatives of the 1975 North Carolina General Assembly and went on to win re-election to eight consecutive terms. Her legislative career was distinguished by her persistent and effective advocacy of causes related to environmental concerns, social welfare, hospice care, adult day care, and women's issues. She has chaired the Legislative Ethics Committee, the House Committee on Constitutional Amendments, the Select Committee on Structured Sentencing, and the House Appropriations Subcommittees on Transportation and Justice and Public Safety. In 1982 she became the first woman to serve on the powerful Joint Commission on Governmental Operations.

B Holt has been a life-long faithful and devoted lay leader of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of North Carolina. She was the first woman to serve on the governing board of her parish church and the first to serve as its senior warden. At the diocesan level, she was the first woman elected to the Standing Committee of the diocese (the highest position open to a lay person) and has served several terms on the Diocesan Council.

B's undergraduate alma mater, Agnes Scott College, has given her its Outstanding Alumna Award and she is included in *Who's Who of American Women*. Although her academic degrees are from other institutions, she proudly claims Chapel Hill as alma mater. We also proudly claim B as our own and honor her with this Distinguished Alumna Award. [B's automobile has a bumper sticker that says "YOU ARE FOLLOWING AN UPPITY WOMAN." Today we proudly honor this "uppity woman" with this Distinguished Alumna Award.]

The portion in brackets was read from the podium but does not appear in the printed citation. JSF

WILLIAM HARRIS HOOKS

William Harris Hooks is one the nation's most distinguished authors of children's literature. A native of Columbus County, William Hooks entered the University in 1939. He interrupted his academic career to serve in World War II but returned to Chapel Hill to complete his A.B. degree in 1947. He majored in dramatic art and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa. He earned his M.A. in History in 1950.

William Hooks has written more than 50 books for children. His many awards include the Irma S. and James H. Black Award for Lifetime Achievement in Children's Literature. Many of his books draw on his North Carolina roots. *The Legend of the White Doe* is based on a Native-American legend of Virginia Dare. *Cross the Line* and *Circle of Fire* recall a childhood in eastern North Carolina. *Snowbear Whittington* tells the Appalachian version of Beauty and the Beast. *Freedom's Fruit*, which won the American Association of University Women's 1996 Award for Juvenile Literature, is based on African-American conjuring during slavery.

For more than fifteen years William Hooks was a consultant to all four national television networks on appropriate language and content for children's programming. He was also for twenty-five years Director of Publications for the Bank Street College of Education in New York City. Under his leadership, the College produced the first basal elementary school reading program that was ethnically integrated and urban oriented.

Although principally known as an author, William Harris Hooks is also a talented dancer and choreographer. He has created dances for fourteen outdoor dramas, including *Unto These Hills* and *Horn in the West*. The spectacular Eagle Dance from *Unto These Hills* is his work.

For a lifetime of distinguished service in the field of children's literature the University is pleased to present to William Harris Hooks its Distinguished Alumnus Award.

BANKS DAYTON KERR

Banks Kerr received the degree of Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1943. He immediately entered military service and saw action in the Pacific Theater. In 1950, he opened the first Kerr Drug pharmacy in Cameron Village, Raleigh. Eventually, the Kerr Drug chain grew to more than 100 North Carolina locations, employing 1,500 people. The chain merged with Eckerd Pharmacy in 1997.

Banks Kerr has served his profession as president of many state and national organizations and his bond with Carolina has remained strong and constant. He has served on our Board of Visitors and the Pharmacy Foundation of North Carolina. He is a Council Member of the Chancellor's Club, has been honored by the School of Pharmacy with its Distinguished Service Award, and was the first W. J. Smith Practitioner-in-Residence. He has been a generous and largely anonymous benefactor of countless people and organizations in the Triangle Area. His initially anonymous challenge gift to the School of Pharmacy's capital campaign played a large part in the success of that effort which is now being realized by the imminent construction of Banks D. Kerr Hall.

For his accomplishments in the business world, his outstanding contributions to the profession of pharmacy, his devotion and generosity to this University, and his philanthropy, the University is pleased to present to Banks Dayton Kerr this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

JOHN LASSITER SANDERS

John Lassiter Sanders, Class of 1950, has distinguished himself through a career of service to the people of North Carolina and this University that displays an astonishing breadth and depth: president of the Student Body, legal scholar, talented University administrator, pioneer in historic preservation, generous benefactor of the University, collector, connoisseur, friend and mentor to student leaders.

John Sanders joined the University faculty in 1956 and served the University as scholar and administrator until his retirement in 1994. His abiding scholarly interest in the North Carolina Constitution has made him the foremost authority on the development and interpretation of that document. He was director of the Institute of government for twenty-four years (1962-73, 1979-92) and served as the first vice president for planning of The University of North Carolina (1973-78). Under his skillful leadership, the Institute developed an international reputation as the world's premier public service institution focused on the interests and concerns of regional and local government.

Among the distinctions that this University has previously conferred on John Sanders are the Thomas Jefferson Award (1988), the General Alumni Association's Distinguished Service medal (1992), the C. Knox Massey Award (1993), the William Richardson Davie Award (1997), and the North Carolina Award (1997). The Board of Governors honored him with the University Award (1995) and the State of North Carolina with the North Carolina Award (1996).

[May I now ask that Ann Beal Sanders stand and be recognized for the remainder of the reading of the citation.]

Of all their many accomplishments, John and Ann Sanders have taken the most pleasure in their work in historic preservation, their devotion to the history and traditions of the University, and their warm friendship with generations of student leaders at Chapel Hill. They are the donors of the ceremonial staff borne by the faculty marshal, the chancellor's medallion, and the restored cornerstones of Old East and South Building, and they arranged for the North Caroliniana Society to acquire a historic silver cup for its annual award. They have lent or donated countless works of art and furnishings of historical significance to such sites as the White House, the National Portrait Gallery, Tryon Palace, and the North Carolina Governor's Mansion. John and Ann's friendship has given a rich depth and texture to the Carolina experience of hundreds of student leaders.

To the many honors John has already received, the University now adds this Distinguished Alumnus Award.

BAILEY DANIEL WEBB

Bailey Webb is a native of Granville County, North Carolina, where she began her career in 1933 as a science teacher in the public schools. When she decided that this was not her calling in life and was unable at the time to afford medical school, she enrolled in the University in 1937 as a graduate student in chemistry. Biochemistry attracted her interest. In 1940 she was one of two graduate students in biochemistry under the tutelage of two faculty members. In 1941 she earned the first Ph.D. to be awarded by the School of Medicine and the School of Public Health. Bailey Webb worked for two years as a biochemist with the Rockefeller Foundation and the North Carolina State Board of Health before enrolling in the Duke Medical School in 1943. She later wryly observed that "due to a quirk of good fortune, the dean's wife was a pediatrician." For the next thirty-eight years Dr. Webb practiced medicine in Durham, North Carolina. She not only cared for her patients' physical well being, but also provided emotional and financial support enabling many young people to attend college or become successful professionals.

In retirement, Dr. Webb volunteers her services to the pediatric department of the Lincoln Community Health Center and continues to see patients and instruct students and residents who rotate through the Center. It is not an uncommon experience for her to see the child or grandchild of someone she followed in her own pediatric practice. And she unfailingly remembers the names of those children of years past. As a member of the Altrusa Club, she has been a guiding force behind a book program for the Lincoln Center that presents to young children a book of their own.

Dr. Bailey Webb has always treasured her relationship with the University. In a letter to the late Professor Mary Ellen Jones, Dr. Webb noted that she was once turned down for membership in the American Association of University Women. Her Chapel Hill Ph.D. did not count because UNC had too few women faculty. "I refused to join with my Duke M.D.," she said.

For a pioneering life of unselfish service to humanity through the practice of pediatric medicine, the University is pleased to present to Dr. Bailey Daniel Webb this Distinguished Alumna Award.