

## Russell Banks

Russell Banks, Class of 1967, has earned a place among the greatest American writers of our day. His undergraduate career at Carolina clearly demonstrated that he was destined for greatness. Older and more experienced than his fellow undergraduates—already married and a father—Russ Banks was the central figure in the literary ferment that characterized Carolina in the 1960s. With graduate students Newton Smith and William Matthews, Banks in 1966 founded the Lillabulero Press to publish the best of the work being done in Chapel Hill at that time. From this press they issued a poetry chapbook and the “little magazine” Lillabulero. The magazine soon attracted national readership and contributions from across the country. Banks and Matthews continued to co-edit the magazine until 1975.

In his early career, Russell Banks wrote mostly poetry but gradually found his voice in prose fiction. Since the mid 1970s he has published four short story collections, including *Trailerpark* (1981), and nine novels, including *The Book of Jamaica* (1980), *Continental Drift* (1985), *Affliction* (1989), *The Sweet Hereafter* (1991), and *Cloudsplitter* (1998). These of these—*Affliction* and *The Sweet Hereafter*—have been made into feature-length films. His work has been described as that of a smooth and vivid stylist with a keen ear for voice and an amazing ability to perceive and recall the details of ordinary life and places. His complex plots keep the reader deeply engaged until the last page. Best of all, he is a serious writer, struggling to understand the deepest issues he has met in his own life and reflected on in American culture: family violence, the distresses of working-class life, and race relations. He addresses these themes with outrage and compassion. He writes not only as a “neo-realist” describing the seen world, but as a reflective mind trying to account for human failure and suffering in that world.

Professor Dan Patterson says of Russell Banks “he is best mind I have ever met in a classroom, on either side of the podium.” That early promise has been amply fulfilled and recognized by the many honors Banks has received. Among them are Woodrow Wilson and Guggenheim Fellowships, the Sarah Lawrence Award for Fiction, the Ingram Merrill Award, the O. Henry and Best American Short Story Awards, the John Dos Passos Award for fiction, and the Literature Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. Banks is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Howard G. B. Clark Professor in the Humanities at Princeton University. In April, 2000, Banks visited Carolina as the Morgan Write in Residence. In The poetry forum that he helped to organize brought One of the organizers of the poetry forum

## Nancy Stookesbury Cole

Nancy Cole received her Ph.D. degree from Carolina in 1968. As president of the Educational Testing Service in Princeton, New Jersey, she guides the nation's most prominent organization in higher education testing. Each year thousands of students seeking admission to colleges and universities, including Carolina, are evaluated in large measure by their performance on the Scholastic Achievement Test, the Graduate Record Exam, and other standardized tests devised and administered under the aegis of ETS. One significant indicator of the influence that ETS wields is the reliance placed on the average SAT score of entering students by those who seek to compare the relative quality of American institutions of higher education.

Nancy Cole has characterized her four years at Carolina as "the good old days." She spent those years researching quantitative and statistical aspects of psychology at the L.L. Thurstone Psychometric Laboratory in our Department of Psychology. Life was not all work, however. Through participation in a folk dance group, she met her future husband, Jim, then a graduate student in mathematics and statistics. Her work led to a special admiration and appreciation of Professor Lyle Jones, the director of the laboratory.

After finishing her degree at Carolina, Nancy Cole embarked on a distinguished career in education first at the University of Pittsburgh (1975-85) and then at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where she served as dean of the School of Education for four years (1985-89). Cole is regarded nationally as an expert in test fairness. Her record as a scholar and policy advisor in the field of assessment led to her election as president of the American Educational Research Association in 1988. She is a member of the National Academy of Education, a Fellow of the American Psychological Society, and the American Psychological Association, and has held leadership positions in the American Educational Research Association, and the National Council on Measurement in Education.

Nancy Cole has characterized her own career as "finding ways to make tests more educationally relevant, and putting them in a form that can contribute to the students' and the teachers' understanding of student achievement and progress." Nancy Cole's solid scholarship and administrative skills have contributed immeasurably to the validity and reliability of test instruments. This record of accomplishment is especially important in an era when accountability in public education has become an imperative of the American people. It is with pride and admiration that her alma mater confers on her this Distinguished Alumna Award.

## WALTER ESTES DELLINGER, III

Walter Dellinger, Class of 1963, Order of the Golden Fleece, is a partner in the firm of O'Melveny & Myers in Washington, D.C., and Douglas B. Maggs Professor of Law at Duke University. He has served as Acting Solicitor General of the United States (1996-98), Assistant Attorney General in the Office of Legal Counsel of the United States Department of Justice (1993-96), and Associate Counsel to the President of the United States (1993). At Carolina, Dellinger took his A.B. degree with Honors in Political Science. In his Senior year (1963), he received the Frank Porter Graham Award for Outstanding Seniors and the John Johnston Parker, Jr., Medal for Unique Leadership in Student Government. He then enrolled in the Yale Law School where he was chosen a member of the Board of Editors of the *Yale Law Journal*, a position offered only to the ablest students. After receiving his LL.B. degree in 1966, Dellinger joined the faculty of the University of Mississippi Law School for two years and then served as Law Clerk to Justice Hugo Black of the United States Supreme Court (1968-69). He has been a member of the Duke Law School faculty since 1969.

Walter Dellinger's academic career has focused on teaching and scholarship in United States constitutional law. He has published widely in the most respected law journals and has acquired a broader audience by frequent contributions to such newspapers and journals as *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, the *New Republic*, and *The Times Literary Supplement* (United Kingdom). Dellinger's virtuosity as a scholar of the Constitution is perhaps best documented by his frequent appearances before Congressional committees to give testimony on matters such as a proposed balanced budget amendment, line item veto, voter registration legislation, proposed flag desecration legislation, the law of presidential succession, and the Freedom of Choice Act of 1990. He has lectured extensively in a wide variety of venues. At Carolina, he delivered the Law School's commencement address in 1999 and the Weil Lecture on American Citizenship in 1996.

As Acting Solicitor General of the United States, Walter Dellinger presented oral arguments before the Supreme Court behalf of the United States in nine major cases. His work in that capacity elicited this tribute from Associate Justice Ruther Bader Ginsburg: "from his first to last days here, Walter has maintained, even enhanced, the grand reputation of the Office of the Solicitor General, though the quality of his argument and the respect he shows for others." His work in the Office of Legal Counsel is no less important. In that capacity, he authored what has become known as "the Dellinger memorandum" on the separation of powers. This document has been characterized as the most detailed study of that subject ever produced by the Department of Justice and one that has had broad influence on the executive branch's formulation of constitutional arguments.

Today, Walter Dellinger is among the small number of people on everyone's list of plausible appointments to the United States Supreme Court in the next presidential administration. Everyone who knew Walter at Carolina in the 1960s thought he was destined for greatness. He has not disappointed their expectations.

## Patricia Stanford Love

Patricia Stanford Love earned three Carolina degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (1950), Master of Arts (American History; 1966), and Juris Doctor (1978). As an undergraduate, she was elected president of the Women's Student Government Association and was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and the Order of the Valkries.

For more than a decade, Patricia Stanford was a teacher and guidance counselor in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro public schools. In 1970 she published (with Hugh Talmadge Lefler) *North Carolina History, Geography, and Government*, a junior high school textbook that was adopted for use in all seventh-grade classrooms across North Carolina. She also headed the Chapel Hill Classroom Teachers Association in this phase of her career.

In 1969, Patricia Stanford became the first woman from Orange County to be elected to the North Carolina General Assembly. She served in the House of Representatives for five consecutive two-year terms and became the first woman to chair one of the important and influential Judiciary committees. In 1978 and 1980 she was identified by the Public Policy Research Poll as the most influential woman legislator and one of the most influential members of either gender. She managed a revision of the entire North Carolina Juvenile Code, was the chief sponsor of a new act regulating equitable distribution of marital property, and was a major player in the effort to secure North Carolina's ratification of the federal equal rights amendment and a coordinate amendment to the North Carolina Constitution. She eventually won the ratification battle in the House only to see defeat in the Senate.

After a decade of service in the legislature, Patricia Stanford was elected district court judge in Orange County, rising to become chief district judge in 1989. She coordinated systematic changes designed to reduce domestic violence and to improve collection of child support. She was the first woman to be elected president of the North Carolina Association of District Court Judges.

Chancellor Emeritus Christopher Fordham says of Patricia Stanford Love "her many achievements have been characterized by a style of grace, kindness, and genuine caring for her community." Her many honors include the Gweneth Davis Award from the North Carolina Association of Woman Attorneys (1993) and the North Carolina Distinguished Service Award of Chi Omega (1994). For a distinguished career of public service as an educator, legislator, and jurist the faculty and Board of Trustees are pleased in deed to present to Patricia Stanford Love this Distinguished Alumna Award.

## WILLIS PADGETT WHICHARD

Willis Whichard, Class of 1962, is dean and professor of law at the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law of Campbell University. Before embarking on a new career in the academic world on July 1, 1999, Dean Whichard compiled an unparalleled record of service to the people of North Carolina. Before taking his seat in 1986 for the first of two six-year terms as the 82<sup>nd</sup> Justice of the Supreme Court of North Carolina, Willis Whichard served two terms in the House of Representatives (1970-74), followed by three terms in the Senate (1980-86), and a six-year term on the North Carolina Court of Appeals (1980-86). He is the only person to have served in both houses of the legislative and on both of our appellate courts. During his judicial service, Justice Whichard found time to earn Master of Laws and Doctor of Juridical Science degrees from the University of Virginia. His forthcoming book *Justice James Iredell* is the first comprehensive biography of the 6<sup>th</sup> Justice of the United States Supreme Court (1790-99) and the only North Carolinian to have occupied that bench. He has also contributed to *American National Biography* (1999) essays on William Horn Battle, Walter Clark, and Augustus Merrimon, all distinguished North Carolina jurists, and he has published many scholarly articles in law journals.

As a Carolina undergraduate and law student, Willis Whichard was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Grail, and the Order of the Coif. In later years he has served his alma mater as president of the General Alumni Association (1993-94), member of the Board of Visitors (1994-98), member of the Board of Advisors of the School of Public Health, and member of the Board of Advisors of the School of Social Work. He was chosen to deliver the 1992 Frank Porter Graham Lecture on Excellence. He is a charter member of the North Caroliniana Society and served as its president (1994-97). In 1993 the Law School presented to him its distinguished alumnus award. Whichard's record of community service includes involvement in such organizations as the Board of Advisors of Duke Hospital, the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, the North Carolina Child Advocacy Institute the American Red Cross, the March of Dimes, and the American Cancer Society.

Over the years Dean Whichard has devoted much of his time and talent to training young lawyers. For twelve years, he was an adjunct professor in our Law School where he conducted a seminar in the judicial process. He has also lectured at Duke University and Oriel College, Oxford. As a member of the appellate bench, Justice Whichard placed much importance on mentoring the new lawyers who served as his law clerks, seeking to instill in them not only knowledge of the law, but a commitment to service as well.

### *Oral Version to be Read from the Podium*

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With all of these accomplishments and honors, Willis Whichard remains at heart a quiet, unassuming man who has served the people of North Carolina to the best of his considerable ability selflessly and without fanfare. In recognition of outstanding service in the fields of public service, the administration of justice, and scholarship the University is pleased to confer on Willis Padgett Whichard this Distinguished Alumnus Award.