Valerie Batts and Angela Bryant are co-founders of VISIONS, Inc., a consulting firm that works with clients who want to understand the impact of diversity and cultural issues on their organization; to learn to recognize, understand, and appreciate cultural differences; to re-conceptualize how organizations develop and function; and to understand and value the need for both a process- and results-oriented approach to diversity. Batts and Bryant, two African-American women from Rocky Mount, North Carolina, were raised and nurtured by a cohesive community in the midst of an ongoing struggle for civil, cultural, and economic rights. As they entered their professions, they and their colleagues developed VISIONS as a way to pass on what they had learned from their elders. In particular they sought to honor a legacy of respect for group and individual differences and faith in the potential for creating just and equitable institutions. Batts earned her A.B. in Psychology from Carolina in 1974 and went on to earn a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Duke. She has consulted around the world on diversity issues, especially in South Africa, and is VISIONS’ senior consultant. In May 2006, the Episcopal Divinity School at Cambridge, Massachusetts, awarded Batts an honorary degree for her ecumenical, social justice, and anti-racism work. At Carolina she helped found the Black Student Movement and was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Valkyries, and the Order of the Old Well. Bryant earned her A.B. degree in Mathematics at Carolina in 1973 and went on to receive her J.D. from our Law School in 1976. She, too, is a senior consultant at VISIONS and is the primary developer and director of the Wright’s Center in Rocky Mount, a community economic development project and the city’s first adult day health care center for frail elders and disabled adults. Bryant has served on Carolina’s Board of Trustees, the UNC Board of Governors, the Rocky Mount City Council, and is a co-founder of the annual Carolina Black Alumni Reunion.

For their outstanding contributions to humanity in striving to build a society that overcomes racism, sexism, and ageism and seeks to achieve social justice for all, Carolina is pleased to confer on Valerie Alayne Batts and Angela Rebecca Bryant these Distinguished Alumna Awards.
William Burwell Harrison, Jr.

William Harrison is Chairman of the Board of Directors of JP Morgan Chase, one of America’s most prominent financial services companies with roots reaching back to 1799. Born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, Harrison is the son and grandson of bankers. He attended Virginia Episcopal School in Lynchburg, where he excelled in basketball and won a scholarship to Carolina to play for Coach Dean Smith. Graduating in 1966, he moved to New York to work for Chemical Bank, the genesis of a career that would take him to the top of the banking profession. In the hard-edged arena of mergers and acquisitions, Harrison has been called “the last gentleman on Wall Street.” In 2001 Harrison was named chairman and chief executive officer of JP Morgan Chase. Three years later he piloted the financial services giant through a merger with Chicago-based Bank One Corporation to create the nation’s second largest bank. Harrison served the General Alumni Association as its international representative from 1981 to 1984 and as its second vice president from 1985 to 1986. He has served on the Board of Visitors, the Bicentennial Steering Committee, and the National Development Council. Currently, he is a member of the Kenan-Flagler Business School Board of Visitors and an honorary member of the Carolina First Campaign Steering Committee. The Board of Trustees honored him with the William Richardson Davie Award in 2004 and Kenan-Flagler presented him with its Global Leadership Award in 2005. As befits true Tar Heels born and Tar Heels bred, Bill and his wife, Anne, count 16 Carolina alumni among their immediate family.

For outstanding service to humanity in the world of finance and through unwavering support of his alma mater, Carolina is pleased to confer on William Burwell Harrison, Jr., this Distinguished Alumnus Award.
Weiming Lu

Weiming Lu is one of the most respected urban planners in the United States today. A native of Shanghai, China, Lu earned his Master of Regional Planning degree at Carolina in 1956. Carrying out the principles of land use planning instilled in him at Carolina by Professors Stuart Chapin, John Parker, James Webb and Shirley Weiss, Lu has been a remarkably effective implementer of progressive civil planning and design. As president of St. Paul, Minnesota’s Lowertown Redevelopment Corporation for more than 20 years, Lu has helped transform the city’s waterfront district into a vibrant “urban village.” He has been an advisor on major urban design projects around the world, including the 2008 Beijing Summer Olympic Games, redevelopment of the Chattanooga, Tennessee, riverfront, and reconstruction of South Central Los Angeles following the 1992 riots. Lu currently serves as planning advisor to the Mayor of Beijing and has played a key role in directing the Chinese capital’s explosive growth toward a sustainable future. Lu has lectured at MIT, Harvard, UC-Berkeley, and Tsinghua University in Beijing, and has been a visiting professor at Tokyo University. His professional work has been featured in many publications and films, and in exhibitions at the Walker Art Center and Dallas Art Museum. Lu is a member of the Committee of 100, a national organization of Chinese-American leaders in the arts, academia, public service, business and science. President Ronald Reagan conferred on Lu the Quadrennial Presidential Award for Design Excellence in 1985. Carolina’s Department of City and Regional Planning named Lu as one of the first four recipients of its Distinguished Alumni Awards in 1992, and he served as advisor to Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura’s trade mission to China in 2001.

For outstanding service to humanity through the field of urban planning and design, Carolina is pleased to confer on Weiming Lu this Distinguished Alumnus Award.
Charles Barnet Nemeroff

Charles Nemeroff is Reunette W. Harris Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at Emory University. He received his Ph.D. in 1976 and his M.D. in 1981 from Carolina. He also completed two years of psychiatry residency training here. In awarding him its 1999 Distinguished Service Award, Carolina’s School of Medicine cited him as a “quadruple threat—internationally known researcher, empathetic clinician, sought-after educator, and constructive administrator.” Nemeroff is a pioneer in translating the insights of research findings in neurobiology into clinical approaches to understanding the treatment of psychiatric disease. He is also one of the nation’s most respected psychiatric educators. He has authored several major books, is a prolific author of research articles, and is editor-in-chief of the official journal of the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology. Nemeroff has been called a “doctor’s doctor” for the compassion and diagnostic skills he exhibits in clinical rounds and is consistently listed among the “Best Doctors in America.” Nemeroff has served in every major leadership position in his field, including President of the American College of Psychiatrists, the American College of Neuropsychopharmacology, and the International Society of Psychoendocrinology. He has received countless major national and international awards, including election to the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Science. Through all of his extensive career, Nemeroff has remained loyal to Carolina and has contributed generously of his time and effort as guest lecturer, advisor, and supporter.

For outstanding service to humanity in the practice of medicine and in research findings in the field of neurobiology, Carolina is pleased to confer on Charles Barnet Nemeroff this Distinguished Alumnus Award.
George Edwin Stuart III

George Stuart is an archaeologist, cartographer, writer, editor, administrator, and renowned scholar of the ancient Maya. He received his Ph.D. degree from Carolina in 1975. While still an undergraduate at the University of South Carolina, Stuart joined a team excavating the Etowah Mounds in northwest Georgia. As word of his talents spread, he was offered a job as project cartographer on an expedition to map the ancient Maya city of Dzibilchaltun. Thus began the journey that would make him one of the most respected and renowned Maya archaeologists in the world. Stuart worked as the National Geographic Society’s resident archaeologist for 38 years, retiring in 1998 as Senior Assistant Editor of the National Geographic magazine, a post that made him responsible for all articles dealing with archaeological topics, and the Society’s Vice President for Research and Exploration, in which capacity he chaired a grants committee that disbursed more than $4 million each year in research grants for field work in a wide range of disciplines. Since his retirement, Stuart has established a research center in Barnardsville, South Carolina, which houses his extensive library and manuscript collection and serves as a venue for scholarly meetings and research. He is a trustee of Warren Wilson College and a member of the North Carolina Humanities Council. Stuart recently announced his intention to donate his book and manuscript collection on Mesoamerican and Maya archaeology to Carolina. This collection, rivaling library holdings at Harvard, Yale, Vanderbilt, and Texas, will form an invaluable resource for scholarly research here.

In recognition of distinguished service to humanity in the field of anthropology, Carolina is pleased to confer on George Edwin Stuart this Distinguished Alumnus Award.