

## FEDERICO GUILLERMO GIL

To become an authoritative scholar, a stimulating teacher, and a respected administrator are classic goals in academic life. To achieve one or two of them is admirable. To accomplish all three, as Federico Gil has done, is truly remarkable.

Now Kenan Professor Emeritus of Political Science, he spent virtually all of his academic career in Chapel Hill after leaving his native Cuba in 1942. A pioneer in Latin American studies, he wrote the texts that introduced several generations to the field, The Governments of Latin America (1957) and Latin America-United States Relations (1971). In 1966 he published The Political System of Chile, still required reading for anyone interested in Chilean political and economic life. He became director of the Institute of Latin American Studies at UNC in 1959 and over the next quarter of a century developed it into one of the nation's premier centers for training and research. His renown as a scholar also carried him frequently into public affairs. He was called on to help design President Kennedy's Alliance for Progress, and he served as an advisor to the Peace Corps, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the United Nations. Continually active to promote understanding between nations, in 1978 he brought professional leaders from Mexico and Venezuela to Chapel Hill for a semester of study, and in 1987 organized an international conference on Spain's entry into NATO.

Schools, scholarly organizations, and governments in Latin America as well as this country have recognized him with honors. According to colleagues, however, the one he values most highly is the Nicholas Salgo Award he received at this University for excellence in undergraduate teaching. During this fiftieth anniversary of our Institute of Latin American Studies, which his teaching, research, and leadership helped to make distinguished, it is especially fitting that we bestow on Federico Gil our degree of Doctor of Letters.