

## CHARLES BISHOP KURALT

Charles Kuralt is a poet with the camera and spoken word.

A student here until 1955, he went to work for the Charlotte News, then in 1957 joined CBS, where he served as a globe-trotting reporter, chief correspondent for Latin America, and head of the West Coast bureau. In 1967 he asked his boss: "Let me just wander for three months," and "On the Road" was born. He continues to do other things, notably "Sunday Morning with Charles Kuralt." But with "On the Road," which presents this country in terms of its better self, he added a dimension to the public perception of America and found his calling.

Less well known are his efforts on behalf of the uncomfortable in American society. A documentary about the impoverished in Appalachia, he said, is the only story he ever felt he had to do. An urge to heighten public awareness of human misery is natural in the son of a North Carolina social worker, and our own School of Social Work has a longer reach because of him. He serves on its Advisory Board, did "North Carolina Is My Home" to endow a professorship in the School in memory of his father, and recently completed a video on the role of the social worker in America today. For it he received an Individual Achievement Award from the National Association of Social Workers.

Such recognition is not new. "On the Road" alone has brought three George Foster Peabody Awards plus three Emmy Awards. In 1972 we recognized him with a Distinguished Alumnus Award. In 1981 he was inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame. And last year East Carolina University awarded him an honorary degree. Today we are pleased to update the Charles Kuralt story with our own degree of Doctor of Letters.