TIM BURNETT is president of family-owned Bessemer Improvement Company, a commercial and industrial real estate firm based in Greensboro, North Carolina.

A Morehead Scholar, he received his A.B. in mathematics in 1962 and was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece, the Order of the Grail-Valkyries and the Order of the Old Well, all honorary societies that recognize students of exemplary character and accomplishment. He went on to earn an M.B.A. with distinction from Harvard University in 1965.

Burnett has a long, broad and distinguished record of service to and support for the University. His leadership roles include eight years of service on Carolina’s Board of Trustees, with two years as its chair. He also served on the Board of Visitors for two terms, twice as its chair; the steering committees for the Bicentennial Campaign and the Carolina First Campaign; and the Morehead-Cain Central Selection Committee. He served on the search committees that chose Chancellors Hooker and Moeser, and on the Rhodes Scholars Nominating Committee for the UNC campus. He is currently vice chair of the Board of Directors of the UNC Health Care System and on the board of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Foundation, Inc., as well as vice chair of the trustees of the Morehead-Cain Foundation.

Burnett has been a generous supporter of endeavors ranging from Carolina Performing Arts and the North Carolina Botanical Garden, to distinguished professorships and student success programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, whose foundation he chaired twice. He is a member of the Lux Libertas Society, an organization through which Carolina recognizes its most devoted supporters, and which takes its name from the University’s motto etched in its official seal—Lux Libertas, Latin for “light and liberty.”

Burnett’s honors include the William Richard Davie Award, the highest recognition given by the Board of Trustees, and the General Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Medal.

For outstanding service to his alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Timothy Brooks Burnet the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa.