Recipients of Distinguished Service Medals

ARCHIBALD KIMBROUGH DAVIS '32 qualifies as an alumnus several times over. In 1967 he received the honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University, and the Master of Arts degree in history in 1975. He continues his study toward the Doctor of Philosophy degree in American Civil War history. In 1974 he was awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He has received honorary degrees from numerous colleges and universities.

Mr. Davis has a distinguished career as a banker, a statesman, a civic leader and public servant.

During his career with Wachovia Bank & Trust Company, he worked his way up from assistant cashier to chairman of the board. He has served as director and board member of numerous corporations, including American Telephone and Telegraph Company, Southern Railway, Media General Incorporated, Jordan Spinning Company, Chatham Manufacturing Company and others.

He has served the life of the business community of North Carolina in many ways, including his service as trustee, president, and founder of the North Carolina Committee for Economic Development. He received the North Carolina Citizens Association Citation.

His national service to the business community has included the presidencies of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the American Bankers Association.

Twice he served terms in the North Carolina General Assembly as Senator.

In many ways Mr. Davis has served the University. He was a member of its Board of Trustees for many years. He was the first chairman of the Order of the Tar Heel 100, and is currently on the boards of the Arts and Sciences Foundation and the Institutional Development Foundation.

In 1959 he rallied the support of North Carolina’s corporate and private citizenry to provide funds to establish the Research Triangle Foundation and the Research Triangle Institute. He is now president of the Research Triangle Foundation.

His foresight and wisdom prompted him to lead the Research Triangle Foundation to provide for the establishment of the Triangle Universities Center for Advance Studies, Incorporated (TUCASI), a venture which holds more than one hundred acres in the Research Triangle Park for the three Triangle universities to use for joint projects of advanced study. He responded again to a call to secure corporate, private, and foundation support that made possible the establishment of the National Humanities Center on the campus of TUCASI. Now Mr. Davis serves on the Board of the National Humanities Center.

In our time, few events have affected the life of this institution and its graduates so much as the creation and development of the Research Triangle enterprise, and Mr. Davis has been central to that development.