Daniel (Dan) Lindsey Grant ’21

Dan Grant, economist and investment consultant in New York City, is a native of Onslow County. He has told an amusing story of his first year at Carolina which shows both the intention to detail and the humor that have characterized his career. So many jokes were poked at him about his home, Sinbad’s Ferry, that one night in the Phi Society, he took the floor and talked for two hours about Sinbad’s Ferry—where it was and every detail he could think of. He says nobody asked him again about where he was from.

Following his graduation, he served for five years as the first full-time Alumni Secretary and Director of the Annual Fund at UNC, and during that period was instrumental in founding the American Alumni Council, a predecessor organization to the American Association of Alumni Secretaries and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE).

After moving to New York in 1927, Dan Grant worked with the Carnegie Foundation, becoming a pioneer advocate of adult continuing education. He promoted his belief that adult education should not be merely for the illiterate, but should offer further opportunities for the educated. Out of this work came a book, the Handbook of Alumni Administration, a volume which still is applicable to many alumni functions today.

During Dan Grant’s tenure as Alumni Secretary at UNC, the General Alumni Association published its first comprehensive directory of alumni, the Alumni History of the University of North Carolina—1795–1984.

The work of Dan Grant laid the foundation for the Alumni Association of The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.