JAMES EVANS DAVIS '40 is a unique individual, being the only person in the history of the University at Chapel Hill to have been elected to and to serve as president of the student body, president of his professional alumni organization, and President of the General Alumni Association.

He has been a tireless advocate of Carolina since coming to the campus as a student from Goldsboro more than 40 years ago. Today he is still known for his ability to negotiate difficult situations in a friendly manner and for inspiring leadership to bring out the best in all with whom he associates.

As president of the student body in 1940, he was also on the cross country team—and won the national AAU championship in the 1,500 meter race. After earning a certificate in medicine here during World War II he served in the Navy, later returning to Chapel Hill as a professor of clinical surgery in the School of Medicine. In 1961 he was elected President of the General Alumni Association, and, several years later, served as President of the Medical Alumni Association. During the latter period he was presented the Distinguished Service Award for his "personal example of high standards for professional service and far-sighted contributions" to his profession.

Dr. Davis' talents have been widely recognized and utilized. He has been President of the North Carolina Medical Society and the State Board of Medical Examiners during crucial periods in the affairs of these groups. Young surgeons of this area continue to be inspired and instructed through an informal education forum established by him. In addition, he has contributed his time and talents for the past 25 years as a part-time clinical faculty member at the School of Medicine here.

In recognition of his outstanding leadership in a broad range of interests, both in his profession and for the University that nurtured him, the General Alumni Association proudly presents its Distinguished Service Medal to Dr. James Evans Davis.