

## Raymond Howard Dawson

“Hey Dr. Dawson, remember me?”

Ray Dawson can't remember all of them, but they remember him. A transplanted Arkansas Razorback, he is recognized and hailed in the legislative corridors in Raleigh and in Washington.

Ray Dawson is so well-known there for his two special talents—teaching and administration.

Of teaching, Ray has said, “There is no higher calling than to teach others.” He is known as a superior professor of political science at Chapel Hill. Louise Larson, a friend who for many years worked with him in that department recalls that his undergraduate courses were always closed when registration began.

As a professor, Ray received awards for excellence in teaching, prizes he has described as the high points of his professional life.

While on leave at Columbia University during the 1967–68 year, Ray received a call from then Chancellor J. Carlyle Sitterson telling him that he had been nominated for dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Ray accepted the position, and began the shift from teaching to administration. In 1972, former President William C. Friday asked him to join the new University System's General Administration. “I knew I wouldn't be doing any teaching and it was a hard decision in that sense,” he recalled.

But fascinated by the chance to work with the reorganized state system of higher education, Ray Dawson accepted the call of the University again.

In the years that followed, Ray became a key negotiator in the University's desegregation conflict with federal officials.

Former President Friday praises Ray Dawson as “the architect of the consent decree” that resolved the 10-year battle. It was also Ray, according to Mr. Friday, who guarded carefully the academic integrity of the University during the sensitive political negotiations.

Ray has served as mentor to many, among them one of his former students, Phil Carson, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University System.

About Ray's contribution to this campus and the University, Phil Carson says, “Ray Dawson has insisted that the implementation of the governance system of the University ensure that each institution be free to develop to its full potential. Ray's sensitivities to campus needs, his

concern with and jealous protection of academic freedom and his strong support for faculty have always been his central theme.

And in addition to that, his was the best single course I ever had as an undergraduate student at Carolina.”