

Paul Joseph Rizzo '50

He had been away from North Carolina for awhile and a few of his friends decided to throw a welcome back party: the presidents of CCB and First Citizens Bank; the publisher of the N&O; the president of Burroughs Wellcome; the chairman of CP&L; the general manager of IBM; the president of Blue Cross and Blue Shield. . . . Well, you get the idea. The business community was glad to see him.

Paul Rizzo's first arrival in Chapel Hill was not quite like this. First, there was the check of the atlas. Growing up in Clinton, New York, young Paul knew a little Italian geography—his father was Dominick Rizzo, a machinist from the old country—but as a 17-year-old freshman athlete at Cornell, he had no idea where North Carolina was. Then the Cornell coach announced he was leaving for that foreign-sounding place and asked Paul to join him. So it was that Carl Snavely and Paul Rizzo came to Chapel Hill and football glory.

There was Jim Camp and Walt Pupa and Bob "True Toe" Cox, and, of course, Charlie Justice. Clearing the path for Choo-Choo was often Number 49, a team player, a tough competitor, a brainy reader of the opponent, Paul Rizzo. Tar Heel fans of a certain age will never forget the 1950 Cotton Bowl and that terrible 27-0 lead the Rice Owls held. Then, in the closing minutes, two touchdown passes from Justice to Rizzo salvaged respectability as the first great era of Carolina football came to a close.

Paul Rizzo's second arrival in Chapel Hill, 42 years after the first one, rekindled those memories of the old days, sure. But it was not nostalgia that stirred the greatest interest. It was the recognition of the substantial record of business achievement Paul had compiled in the interim, and the promise he brought—and was to fulfill—for success as dean of UNC's School of Business Administration.

His business career began with his degree from Carolina in accounting from what then was called the School of Commerce. He became a junior auditor at Coopers & Lybrand, moving in 1951 to Dan River Mills, the Virginia textile maker. His work there in the financial side of the business led him to IBM and a course to the top of the world of international business.

The climb at IBM was steady: manager of financial analysis, controller, vice president, senior vice president and chief financial officer. Along the way, Paul was line executive directly responsible for product development and manufacturing of IBM's computer line and the contact executive for world-wide product development. In 1982, he was elected vice chairman of the corporation's board of directors. Look on page 42 of IBM's 1986 annual report to stockholders. It's heady stuff for the kid who followed

Carl Snavely to Chapel Hill, listed as the number two executive in the world's undisputed leader in computers.

And then, just a year later, when Paul retired from that environment, leaders of North Carolina business teamed with leaders from UNC and lured him back. He came with the goals of strengthening the ties of the business school to the state's business community and reinvigorating the curriculum to awaken students—and the state—to the globalization of business.

Carolina's business school has been recognized for its quality throughout its eighty-year history. Today, in unmistakable part because of Paul Rizzo's leadership, it has emerged as a national leader. The Kenan Institute of Private Enterprise anchors the ties to the business community. A new building will soon provide the facilities necessary for continued progress. The student body is more impressive than ever—higher entrance exam scores, higher college grade point averages, greater diversity.

And while he was in Chapel Hill, Paul wanted to be involved with Carolina alumni. He took a term on the General Alumni Association's Board of Directors and represents the Association on the Athletic Council.

Our University had him for only one term as dean. After all, he was already retired when he came back. So now it's retirement for real. Wait a second, phone for Paul. It's IBM. They want you back to help cure their financial ills. Well, we had him again, for awhile. And we eagerly await his help.