

Timothy Brooks Burnett '62

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Nobody ever graduated from the library. And that is the nature of the challenge, Tim Burnett believes, of championing the College of Arts and Sciences. While studying toward his MBA at Harvard, he noticed that Harvard people always were quick to identify themselves with Harvard College, if they had come out of arts and sciences. If no such distinction exists at Carolina, don't blame Tim.

The professional schools had no problem garnering identity. It was different for the library, the drama department, the math department, and all the places from which nobody specifically graduated. Tim's solution to the relative anonymity of the College of Arts and Sciences was to lead the college's Bicentennial fund-raising drive beyond its \$50 million goal.

An identity problem? He called it simply "the heart and soul of the University."

Another thing he noticed at Harvard in the early 1960s: a fair number of Carolina graduates in the Boston area, yet no formal alumni club. "When you grow up in this area, you take a lot of what the University is about for granted," Tim says. "Then you move to the Northeast, where they think civilization stops at the Holland Tunnel. But you find a lot of respect for the University far outside Chapel Hill. It was an awakening to the high regard in which the University was held."

Tim's solution to the absence of an alumni organization was the same as his approach to every need he runs across — take it upon yourself to start one. He requested addresses of Carolina alumni in the Boston area, and said, "I'll take it from here." Before long a reception was held, around the familiar face of Governor Terry Sanford '39.

Tim grew up around a family real estate business. He majored in math and went for the Harvard MBA. Tim went from there into banking. One might easily pigeon-hole him as having little time for the more "liberal" of the arts, but Tim defies the all-business stereotype. You find in Tim's scrapbook the experiences of one who came for the entire smorgasbord, and cleaned his plate. His affection for the College of Arts and Sciences goes way back.

"I majored in math, but I really majored in professors," he says. "I have a genuine belief that if possible, the thing students should do is get a broad-based education that will teach them to think critically and express themselves, to develop a broad perspective. When people say Carolina, Arts and Sciences is what I think they're talking about."

If his business sense sometimes clashed with his colleagues' esthetics, it did so constructively. As business manager of the *Daily Tar Heel*, he wrangled with four different editors over the advertising vs. news ratio. Finally, he convinced Jonathan Yardley '61 that more ads meant a bigger paper, and the *Daily Tar Heel* grew by 50 percent.

Tim seems always to be looking for opportunities to contribute. A letter from Harvard to Chapel Hill showed he clearly was concerned that, even as a graduate student, he wasn't doing enough. Tim in effect asked Alumni Secretary "Spike" Saunders '25 to tell him what was appropriate, and the check would be in the mail.

He took quite seriously the Morehead Scholar's charge to serve. Tim chaired the Board of Visitors and served on the Chancellor's Search Committee, the Morehead Central Selections Committee, and the Rhodes Scholar Nominating Committee. Tim is a former national chair of the Chancellor's Club.

For him, the Bicentennial never really ended. Our new chancellor Michael Hooker '69 set annual fund-raising goals on a pace with that campaign, and Tim dove in, continuing to lead as chair of the Arts and Sciences Foundation's board of directors. That, and as a strong advocate

that his wife Janie's and his three daughters get well-rounded "A&S" degrees before deciding what to do.

Tim delights in moments such as the seminar he attended at a reunion, where the Class of '62 shared memories with the Class of '67. "I realized we might as well have been a generation apart," he says. "I raised my hand and said, 'We didn't go to the same university.'" And that is what always has drawn Tim Burnett to the ideal of the College of Arts and Sciences. Change, diversity, the "common goal of free self-expression," that broad perspective.

It is that, in which Tim Burnett believes, that our University excels. It is the one thing that never becomes obsolete.