

James Grubbs Martin

Davidson '57

Oxford Cup Roll N° 024

Leadership has marked the career of Jim Martin at every turn, and the turns have been conspicuously often and varied. Formal designation as Dr. James Grubbs Martin, though fully proper, would seem pretentious. It's not how he is best known. He has been Jim Martin as chemist and environmentalist, as county commissioner, as six-term Congressman 1972-84, as president of Beta Theta Pi, as Governor of North Carolina 1985-93 and in various other notable capacities.

Identification by the starchier label has been on the cover of his Ph.D. thesis, *Stereochemistry of the DielsAlder Reaction*, published in *Chemical Reviews* in 1961; on the titles of his four patents in the chemistry of butyl rubber vulcanization; on American Chemical Society's list of Charles Lathrop Parsons awardees for outstanding public service by an American chemist and occasionally in the concert programs of the Charlotte Symphony, in which he has played the tuba.

He was initiated as #745 on the roll of Phi Alpha, the Davidson chapter of Beta Theta Pi, on March 13, 1954. As a faculty member, he was chapter counselor and faculty advisory, 1960-64; chief of District IX, 1963-67, and Convention Secretary in 1965. As a Beta vice president, 1966-69, he helped in developing a system of colonization and in writing a ritual for installation of new chapters.

In 1993, he stepped from the Governorship of North Carolina to chairmanship of the Research Development Board of the Carolinas Medical Center at Charlotte, N.C. He is on the University of North Carolina Board of Governors, a trustee of Wake Forest University, chairman of Global Transpark Foundation, Inc., and member of the North Carolina Assn. for Biomedical Research. He also is a board member of Blue Cross Blue Shield, Carolina Freight Corp., Duke Power Co., Entropy, Inc., J. A. Jones, Meadowbrook Healthcare Services and Reprogenesis.

Born in Savannah, Ga., Dec. 11, 1935, he received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from Davidson in 1957. Receiving a doctor's degree in chemistry from Princeton in 1960, he taught chemistry at Davidson the next 12 years. As a Davidson faculty member, he also was a Mecklenburg County Commissioner, 1966-72, and president of North Carolina Assn. of County Commissioners 1970-71.

In six terms as Congressman from the Sixth District, 1972-84, he was on the House Ways and Means Committee, chairman of the House Republican Research Committee, an opponent of a unilateral freeze on nuclear weapons and a Capitol Hill authority on food additives, environment, health and toxic waste legislation.

When elected to his first term as Governor in 1984, he was North Carolina's 66th governor since statehood, the second Republican elected Governor this century, and the first Republican Governor elected to two consecutive terms.

Jim and the former Dorothy Ann McAulay are parents of James, Jr., Emily and Benson Martin. A former Presbyterian deacon, Jim is a 33rd degree Mason, a Shriner and a member of the Chowder and Marching Society, with credentials as a choir member, composer and sailor.