



DISTINGUISHED CLASSMATE AWARD

Gordon G. Hammes

60th Reunion

May 27, 2016

Gordon Hammes, Gordy to his friends, came from Wisconsin, earned Phi Beta Kappa status at Princeton where he majored in Chemistry, was a member of Cloister Inn, and impressed all with his talent at the piano. He went on to garner his PhD at the University of Wisconsin in 1959, while carrying on post-doctoral research at the Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry in Germany.

With his doctoral degree, Gordy served on the faculty at Massachusetts Institute of Technology before moving on to Cornell University in 1965, where he ultimately became chairman of the Department of Chemistry. After twenty-three years in Ithaca, Gordy went to the University of California–Santa Barbara, as Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Three years later, in 1991, he moved on to Duke University as Professor of Biochemistry and Vice Chancellor for Medical Center for Academic Affairs. Gordy was editor-in-chief of Biochemistry, the journal of the American Chemical Society for eleven years, and in 1994 became President of the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Over the years Gordy has received numerous awards in his field and has written six books on chemistry and enzymes, as well as more than two hundred fifty scientific articles and publications.

Upon arriving at Duke, Gordy chose to take up once again his childhood interest in tennis and has progressed to the point where, within the past year, he won the United States Tennis Association Singles Tournament for men aged 80 or over. He continues to play the piano and is on the Board of the Naples (FL) Music Club. Of his three children, one, Sharon '88, is a Princeton graduate.

For your varied accomplishments, Gordy, in such diverse fields as chemistry, tennis, and music, we are happy to present you with the Distinguished Classmate award this 27th day of May 2016.