



Dave Owens Receives Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award

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[The Edward Kidder Graham Faculty Service Award](#) is a new award that will be conferred for the first time on this upcoming University Day, October 12. Our own Dave Owens will be the first recipient.

The Graham Award was established to recognize “outstanding service” by a faculty member, and it “calls to remembrance President Graham’s ambition ‘to make the campus co-extensive with the



boundaries of the State,' in the context of the University's modern mission to extend knowledge-based service world-wide."

Carolina's public service mission gained its earliest and most eloquent expression nearly 100 years ago under the leadership of President Edward Kidder Graham. He believed that "the state and all its practical problems" were a legitimate field of University study and service. The campus motto during his tenure as president was "Write to the University When You Need Help," and Carolina viewed itself as a "telephone central" that connected those interested in being served with those who could provide the service.

Albert Coates was an undergraduate during Graham's tenure as president, and he worked directly for him as a special assistant following his graduation. He called Graham "the greatest man I ever knew in flesh and blood, and he was the profoundest single influence in my life." Graham inspired Coates and articulated a vision for University service that laid the groundwork for the Institute of Government.

Edward Kidder Graham, UNC President (1913-1918)

Dave Owens would be a deserving recipient regardless of his academic home, but his selection is perfect given his location in the campus unit that was guided by Graham's spirit.

One nominator said that "within the land use community, [Dave] is one of the State of North



Carolina's greatest assets." In talking about his role in facilitating the landmark development agreement for Carolina North between the University and the Town of Chapel Hill, another nominator said "[i]t may sound like hyperbole, but it is true: David repeatedly performed near miracles in moving people gently, firmly, and inexorably toward results."

"I believe that David Owens epitomizes the best the University has to offer the state," said another, "and his service does indeed 'make the campus co-extensive with the boundaries of the state.'" In addition to recognizing Dave as "the author of several definitive works on local government planning and zoning," the award recognizes his long-time service to the campus as a member of the University's Building and Grounds Committee."

Special congratulations to Dave for becoming the first recipient of the Graham Award. It is well deserved and you make us proud. The award will be presented at University Day, which will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on October 12 in Memorial Hall. I encourage you to come and cheer. The speaker will be Tom Ross, a former Institute of Government faculty member who is better known to some people as President of the UNC System.

Baseball trivia in honor of the upcoming playoffs that begin on Friday (featuring the Detroit Tigers): In the movie *Field of Dreams*, the character Archie "Moonlight" Graham is based on a real person who appeared as a late-inning substitute in one game for the New York Giants in 1905. Burt Lancaster plays the older "Doc" Graham in the movie. Graham was born in Fayetteville, North Carolina and played college baseball at Carolina. He was the cousin of Edward Kidder Graham and the brother of Frank Porter Graham, a later UNC President and a US Senator.