

ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Honoring

J. Hayden Hollingsworth '58

June 8, 2018

Each year the Board of Directors of the Alumni Association recognizes alumni who have rendered and performed a high degree of service to the College. This year, the Alumni Association Board has selected J. Hayden Hollingsworth '58 to receive an Alumni Service Award.

Davidson runs in Hayden's family: his father Dr. Aaron Hayden Hollingsworth, Jr. was part of the class 1926 and his daughter Merris was a member of the class of 1983. A premed student, Hayden was involved in ROTC, Pi Kappa Alpha, Interfraternity Council, Court of Control, Philanthropic Literary Society, and Chapel Choir. After graduating Davidson, he received his MD at Emory University and, in true liberal arts style, went on to pursue a career as a cardiologist and, post-retirement (1996), a dedicated writing career. Hayden has written fiction and poetry and currently serves as a columnist for the Roanoke Star.

It should be noted that while Hayden embraced his retirement, his patients and colleagues did not. An article from the Roanoke Times dated a few days before his retirement begins, "Almost as soon as the letter went out announcing Dr. J. Hayden Hollingsworth's career change last month, the return calls and letters started pouring in . . . Hundreds of patients responded with cards, letters and phone calls – many of them tearful." The article goes on to say that after his secretary stacked 50 medical charts on his desk, Hayden spent "all day Saturday and Sunday talking to fretful patients, reassuring them they'd be okay without him – and reassuring them that he'd be okay with the practice of medicine."

In 1998, Hayden wrote in a letter to the Alumni Office, "I left the practice of cardiology on April 1 (an appropriate day, I thought), to take up full time writing. This has been the most fun I have ever had. To the comment of, "How's retirement?" I tell people I'm not retired, just "gainfully unemployed."

One of the college's most dependable volunteers before and after his "retirement," Hayden loves Davidson and everyone connected to Davidson. Through his role as class secretary, which he has performed for fifteen years, he enjoys keeping his class connected to each other and the college. Hayden's commitment to the Class of 1958 also shows in his service on his last five reunion committees and as chair of his 50th reunion. He has also supported the college's philanthropic efforts through his role as a class ambassador for the Fund for Davidson, and worked especially on the Class of 1958 Alumni Scholarship Fund. In addition, Hayden lectured annually in the Department of Humanities for many years, including as a stint as Health Care Professional in Residence in the Humanities Department.

For your steady, committed volunteer work and the impact you have had uniting the Class of 1958; for your loyalty and dependability; today we thank you, John Hayden Hollingsworth, and present you with the Alumni Service Award.