DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Honoring
Alex Porter ’60
June 6, 2015

Alex Porter began his career with Interstate Securities Corporation in Charlotte and then moved to New York in 1964 to work as an investment analyst. He joined A.W. Jones as a portfolio manager, next worked at the predecessor of AllianceBernstein Holding LP, and then started his own firm in 1974. Porter Management, Inc. would eventually become Porter Orlin LLC and then Amici Capital, an enterprise employing 27 individuals with $2.2 billion in assets under management.

Alex served many good causes that benefitted from his keen intellect and unfailing generosity, including the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation, Queens University, and the American Ballet Theatre; none benefitted more so, however, than his beloved alma mater. He was a member of the Board of Trustees, Board of Visitors, William Holt Terry Scholarship Board of Advisors, Campaign Cabinet of the Let Learning Be Cherished initiative, and a volunteer with both the Annual Fund and Alumni Association.

As was typical of Alex, his incredible philanthropy to Davidson was done anonymously. He quietly supported WDAV, the football and wrestling programs with awards named for others, and scholarships recognizing the achievements of mentors. His gifts included funding a professorship and lectureship named for his dear friend Joel Conarroe, as well as another professorship in honor of Professor Douglas C. Houchens. Alex co-established one of this institution’s—and indeed all of higher education’s—most noteworthy and innovative athletic recruiting initiatives. The Davidson Scholars Program focused on bringing to the college gifted Division I athletes who raised the academic profile of the entire student body.

Although the term “Renaissance man” may well be overused, Alex Porter was the very definition. An English major at Davidson who treasured his classes in studio art, Alex was also a letterman on the college’s wrestling and football teams, later winning the coveted James P. Hendrix Award. He loved his Kappa Sigma fraternity, a source of much fun and deep friendships which he would cherish and nurture for life. A voracious reader, Alex relished the telling and hearing of a great story. He was as well known for his graciousness, thoughtfulness, and good manners as he was for his intellectual curiosity.

As an investment manager, Alex mentored future Wall Street financiers and also supported the work of scholars and artists. He spent most of his adult life in Manhattan, but purchased a large rural tract near Davidson and spent his last days on his farm. That home became a refuge that also allowed him to be surrounded by his beloved family: sister and brother-in-law, Sarah and Bill Boehmler, their three daughters Liz, Jean and Alexis, the next generation of the Porter-Boehmler-Reynolds clan, and countless Davidson College friends and admirers.

In recognition of his stellar career and entrepreneurial spirit, in honor of his many achievements at Davidson College and beyond, and in remembrance of one who fully embraced each day of his too short time among us, we posthumously bestow the Distinguished Alumnus Award to A. Alex Porter, Jr. on the occasion of the 55th Reunion of the Class of 1960, this 6th day of June, 2015.