The Statement of Purpose of James G. Pepper’s beloved alma mater includes the sentence: “The primary purpose of Davidson College is to assist students in developing humane instincts and disciplined and creative minds for lives of leadership and service.” This member of the Class of 1965 was clearly paying attention!

Jim received his Bachelor of Arts from Davidson, majoring in business administration. After graduation, he began a career at Chase Manhattan Bank, where, at 23, he became the youngest officer in its history. In 1974, Jim joined the investment firm of Brundage, Story, and was made a partner in 1980. The firm, later purchased by Bessemer Trust, would continue to benefit from his keen intellect and unwavering integrity until his retirement in 2006. In an era and a company steeped with tradition, Jim was fully accepted as an openly gay man by his associates and the larger financial community and was publicly recognized in an article in *New York Magazine* in the spring of 1999.

As impressive a business career as Jim enjoyed, it is in his service to others where Jim has truly left his mark. In addition to his work for Davidson as an Annual Fund volunteer, leader of regional campaign efforts, member of the Board of Visitors and generous donor to both scholarships and the arts, Jim has performed *pro bono* management and financial counselling to several Episcopalian and Presbyterian churches. He is also past president and board member of the Youth Counseling League, involved in the building of the financial stability of numerous not-for-profit organizations, and strongly committed to historic preservation.

One of Jim’s nominators for this award wrote: “In early 1981, he was among the first to recognize that there was a terrible disease in the gay and addiction communities. Little was known of it, except that it was crippling and then killing a growing number of people.” With his usual drive and commitment, Jim assumed a leadership role in both fundraising for and the shaping of AIDS policy for the Gay Men’s Health Crisis (GMHC). He raised millions of dollars and enhanced awareness of this global health crises, undoubtedly helping to save countless lives.

In 1990, Jim co-founded the Stonewall Community Foundation to help educate others about the importance of philanthropy and encourage trust and estate planning. The Foundation has since distributed more than $14 million to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender organizations.

Because of your unfailing commitment to make your community a better place; because of your tireless efforts in saving the lives of those stricken with the AIDS virus; and because of both your public outcry and your quiet resolve to inform needed change; the Alumni Association honors you, James G. Pepper, with the John W. Kuykendall Award for Community Service on the occasion of the Class of 1965’s 50th Reunion, June 5, 2015.