DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD
Honoring
Alan William Duncan ’76
June 4, 2016

The Distinguished Alumni Award recognizes living alumni who have provided leadership or attained recognition on a national or regional level within their profession or business. Alan Duncan ’76 has provided an extraordinary level of leadership to the state of North Carolina and to Davidson College.

In his application to Davidson in October 1971, in response to a question asking how he was most likely to make a contribution to the Davidson College community, Alan Duncan wrote “…I would just wish to give back as much as I could.” Alan has certainly fulfilled this wish – and then some.

At the end of his stellar career at Davidson, during which he participated on the basketball and track teams, served as a hall counselor and freshman advisor, volunteered with community youth athletics teams as well as with inmates at a nearby penitentiary, and graduated cum laude with membership in Phi Beta Kappa, Alan was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award, which recognizes excellence of character and service to humanity. Since his time at Davidson, this ethos of service and honor has resonated in every facet of Alan’s life.

Alan has been an extraordinary servant in his community, holding numerous leadership positions at his church, coaching youth basketball for years, and chairing the Guilford County Board of Education since 2002. In 2012, he was presented the Joseph Bryan Foundation Unsung Hero Award for Community Service. In 2005, he was presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award by Guilford College – surely one of the few people who have received this very special recognition as a college senior and as a more seasoned adult!

His dedication to Davidson spans decades and includes representing his classmates on multiple reunion committees, serving on the Alumni Association Board and the Board of Visitors, encouraging donations as an Annual Fund class agent and as chair of the Ne Ultra leadership giving society, and strengthening ties to alma mater as president of the Greensboro alumni chapter. In recognition of this commitment to Davidson, he was presented the Alumni Service Award in 2007.

A well-respected attorney now practicing with Mullins Duncan in Greensboro, for many years Alan has been an exceptional leader among his professional peers. He has chaired the Litigation Section of the North Carolina Bar Association, is a past president of the North Carolina Association of Defense Attorneys, and is a recent past president of the North Carolina Bar Association. He is regularly cited as a North Carolina “Super Lawyer” and is a past recipient of many honors, including the Advocate’s Award for Best in Litigation by the NC Bar Association, the J. Robert Elster Award for Professional Excellence, which is the highest accolade given to a member of the North Carolina
Association of Defense Attorneys, the Dr. I. Beverly Lake Public Service Award, and the North Carolina Bar Association’s Citizen Lawyer Award.

Davidson’s Statement of Purpose says, “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.”

Because you have been a passionate advocate for strengthening the educational system in your community; because you are exceptionally well-respected for your legal acumen, humane instincts and effective leadership among your peers; and because you have led a life abundantly full of leadership and service, in accordance with Davidson’s Statement of Purpose, the Davidson College Alumni Association honors you with the Distinguished Alumni Award on the occasion of your 40th reunion, June 4, 2016.