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Local Angle: Winston-Salem

A Professorship in Honor of a Friendship

By THE ARTS AND SCIENCES FOUNDATION
Sarah Madry

Austin Heaton Carr and Frank Borden Hanes were roommates in Old East Dormitory and graduated with the Carolina wartime class of 1942. They are partners in a friendship they have maintained and cherished for over 56 years. In honor of this friendship, Frank Hanes has endowed The Austin H. Carr Distinguished Professorship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Last April, Frank Hanes and Dennis Cross, Executive Director of the Arts and Sciences Foundation at Carolina, surprised Carr with an announcement of the professorship at a lunch at the Olde Towne Club in Winston-Salem. A handcrafted, framed document was presented to Carr, on which was inscribed in gold letters, "And if one might ask how Austin Carr contributed to his times an answer would forthcome, 'By Being Himself'."

Austin H. Carr was born in Durham and attended Durham City Schools and Woodberry Forest School in Virginia. He graduated with a BA in English in 1942 where he was in the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity and was "Princeps" of the Gorgon's Head society during his senior year. He married the former Mildred Borden Cobb of Goldsboro. The couple had two children, Donnell and Laura. Carr was the Senior Executive Vice President of Long, Haymes, and Carr, an advertising firm in Winston-Salem from which he is retired. Upon graduation from UNC-CH, Carr entered training in the Air Corps of the US Army and was assigned during World War II to the 396th Fighter Squadron of the 368th Fighter Group. He was discharged with the rank of Captain in January, 1945. Carr is the grandson of Julian S. Carr, one of the first and most distinguished benefactors of the university.

Frank B. Hanes, Sr. has been, throughout his life, an untiring and ardent supporter of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Born in Winston-Salem in 1920, he attended Woodberry Forest School, where he met his friend Austin Carr. After graduating from UNC-CH, and serving in the Navy as a commissioned officer in World War II, Hanes returned to Winston-Salem where he has been in business and in journalism.

Frank Hanes is an author and poet. His books have won the first Chowan Award for Poetry and the Sir Walter Raleigh Award for Fiction.

The Hanes family has supported dozens of projects, endowments and gifts to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in addition to many other deserving entities in the state. The James Gordon Hanes Professorship in the Humanities, the Hanes-Willis Visiting Professorships and the Frank Borden and Barbara Lasater Hanes Art Center are but a few gifts from the Hanes family to Carolina. Frank Hanes was a founder and the first Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Arts and Sciences Foundation. He is presently on the Board of Trustees of the Morehead Foundation and on the Board of Governors of the University Press. Among other honors Carolina has presented to him, he received the Davie Award and the Distinguished Service Medal.

When asked why he wanted to honor his friend in this way, Hanes said, "I decided in this case, that memorials don't twitch the bones the way honors do. I'd rather twitch the bones of the 'beloved old frog', as he is known, than provide for candles later. He's the sort of fellow who has a lot of thoughtfulness and charm – a person that people like to be around. He's been stalwart in his dedication to the things he appreciates in life. Carolina has been one of these. He, in his way, has done a lot for a lot of people in his being and actions and considerate nature."

Dennis Cross, Executive Director of the Arts and Sciences Foundation notes that the contributions that Frank B. Hanes Sr. has made to the College are far-reaching. "Frank Hanes has made another wonderful and thoughtful gift to the College of Arts and Sciences. Frank's gift honors his long-term friendship with Austin Carr and strengthens significantly the College through the flexibility to recruit or retain a top teacher and scholar. Frank Hanes never ceases to amaze me with his generosity and unanticipated recognition of family and friends."

Austin Carr relates that he was astounded at the luncheon in his honor when his friend told him that a professor would carry the Carr name. He was shocked and pleased beyond words. He said, "Suffice it to say no milestone or happening in my life compares to my professorship! Nor has anything ever been more meaningful. Appreciation and thanks are words too empty to use."

Arts and Sciences Foundation contact: Sarah Madry, 919-962-6123