Since 1974, when he became the first African-American to join the faculty, Professor Herman Edward Eure has been instrumental in the integration of Wake Forest, pioneering the efforts to build an institution that promotes equality, inclusion and diversity.

Born the seventh of 10 children in Corapeake, North Carolina, Professor Eure was valedictorian of his high school and attended Maryland State College on academic and athletic scholarships. As an undergraduate, he thrived academically and became active in student government as well as the civil rights movement. After graduating in 1969, he was awarded the prestigious Ford Fellowship to fund five years of graduate studies. Professor Eure chose to pursue his Ph.D. in biology at Wake Forest, becoming the first African-American graduate student on the Reynolda Campus and the first African-American to earn a doctorate.

When he was offered a faculty position at Wake Forest at age 27, Professor Eure was already recognized as a campus leader, serving as a role model and mentor to minority undergraduate students. In 1977, Professor Eure helped establish the Office of Minority Affairs, now the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, that created the foundation we build upon today.

Professor Eure's bold, innovative and enthusiastic approach both in and out of the classroom earned him not only the respect of his students but a faculty following as well. He was awarded the inaugural Trident Professor Award from Delta Delta Delta in 1990 and the John Reinhardt Award for Distinguished Teaching in 2001. He also received the Donald O. Schoonmaker Faculty Award for Community Service in 2012. He served as chair of the biology department for several years and as associate dean of faculty development from 2006 to 2010. Professor Eure has said that being named the first associate dean of faculty development was one of the highlights of his career because it afforded him the opportunity to mentor younger faculty and assure they had the resources to excel in the classroom.

In 2008, Professor Eure was selected as the first faculty member to deliver the Founders' Day Convocation address, encouraging Wake Forest to be mindful of our best traditions, while striving to become better. Professor Eure's career honors two of Wake Forest's best traditions in the teacher-scholar ideal and the Pro Humanitate mission to serve, but he is celebrated as the man who skillfully, gracefully and tirelessly created a better Wake Forest for our young men and women. On this Founders' Day, nearly a decade after Professor Eure delivered his convocation address that urged us to be a better Wake Forest, we honor this exceptional and forward-thinking professor who has fulfilled his own charge.

In gratitude for his decades of service as a gifted and inspiring teacher-scholar, his dedication and commitment to the spirit of Pro Humanitate and his pioneering work on campus for equality, diversity and inclusion, Wake Forest University confers its highest honor, the Medallion of Merit, upon Professor Herman Edward Eure on this Sixteenth day of February, Two Thousand Seventeen.

NATHAN O. HATCH, PRESIDENT
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
Today we honor and celebrate a cherished faculty member whose extraordinary intellectual guidance over four decades has earned him the devotion and gratitude of countless Wake Forest students. There is no better example of the teacher-scholar ideal than professor emeritus of history, James Pierce Barefield, 2017 Medallion of Merit recipient.

Born in Jacksonville, Florida, Professor Barefield spent part of his childhood in Atlanta, finishing high school in Birmingham, Alabama. After he graduated from Rice University, Professor Barefield was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to study in London and completed his doctorate at Johns Hopkins. He joined the history faculty at Wake Forest in 1963 and soon earned a reputation as an engaging and quick-witted lecturer who taught a unique, entertaining and thought-provoking honors seminar.

Professor Barefield's impact was felt not only through his groundbreaking efforts to develop the honors program through signature seminars like "The Ironic View" or "The Comic View," but also for his leadership in the study abroad and merit scholarship programs. From 1973 until his retirement in 2004, Professor Barefield supervised numerous unforgettable semesters abroad at Casa Artom in Venice and London's Worrell House, helping to build the overseas studies program into the nationally recognized program Wake Forest offers today. He also diligently supported merit scholarship opportunities as a mentor and advisor for undergraduate scholarship holders and for students competing for postgraduate scholarships like the Rhodes and the Fulbright.

Throughout his 41-year teaching career at Wake Forest, Professor Barefield was masterful at cultivating the student-teacher relationship, and his abiding concern for his students and their admiration and affection for him developed into numerous lifelong friendships. His natural ability for connecting with students, his wry sense of humor and his infectious love of irony both in literature and in life appealed to his students, who sought out his advice for issues beyond academia.

Although he retired from the faculty in 2004, Professor Barefield continues to serve the University as an expert interviewer for Admissions. Because of his uncanny ability to communicate with young people, his analysis of applicants is flawless, and his innate charm and intellect continue to attract and impress the brightest student prospects.

In gratitude for his four decades as the quintessential professor, his pioneering work with the honors and study abroad programs and his tireless support for students in the merit scholarship program, Wake Forest University confers its highest honor, the Medallion of Merit, upon Professor James Pierce Barefield on this Sixteenth day of February, Two Thousand Seventeen.