

Celebration of the Life and Achievements
of
ROBERT PASCHAL BURNS

Sunday, February 26, 2006
Long View Center, Raleigh, North Carolina

WELCOME

Marvin J. Malecha, FAIA
Dean, NC State University College of Design

Thomas M. Barrie, AIA
Director, School of Architecture

Edwin F. "Abie" Harris, FAIA (1957 Bachelor of Design in Architecture)
University Architect Emeritus

Roger H. Clark, FAIA
Professor, School of Architecture

musical interlude

Peter Samton, FAIA
Partner, Gruzen and Samton, LLP

John L. Atkins III, FAIA (1966 Bachelor of Design in Architecture)
President, O'Brien/Atkins Associates, PA

Anne Raines, AIA (2000 BEDA & 2001 B.Arch.)
Architect, ArchPlan, Inc.

musical interlude

Robert "Adam" Burns
with Emily Carter Smith and Linda Paige Burns

CLOSING REMARKS

Marvin J. Malecha, FAIA

Music provided by Glenn Ingram and Elmer Gibson.

The NC State University College of Design is hosting a reception at Caffé Luna (136 East Hargett Street) immediately following the celebration.

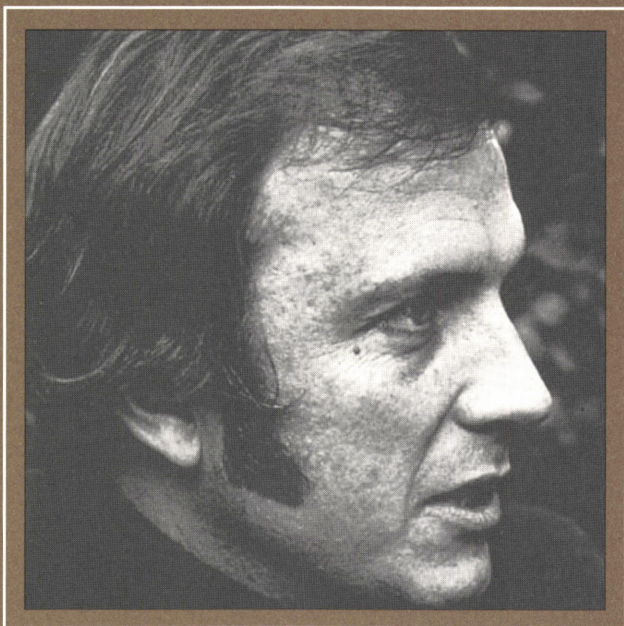
THE COLLEGE OF DESIGN would like to thank the following alumni, friends, and colleagues of **BOB BURNS**, who have contributed as of February 21, 2006, more than \$100,000 to create the **ROBERT P. BURNS MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT**. The income from the endowment will be used to complement the *Robert P. Burns Lectures and Seminars on Structural Innovations Endowment* established by **EDUARDO CATALANO** and will also provide additional support for the students and faculty of the School of Architecture.

Dallas C. Abee, Jr.
 Carla and Bernard Abramczyk
 Adams Products Company
 AIA Triangle, a section of the American
 Institute of Architects
 Allen and Pinnix, PA, Noel Allen
 Mr. and Mrs. Laurin B. Askew, Jr.
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 Binda Family
 Georgia Bizios
 Allison and David R. Black
 Martha B. and John I. Brooks, Jr.
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 Mark A. Humienny
 Ann F. and Gene W. Jones
 Lena and Yu S. Jung
 Julie B. and Kerry A. Kane
 Haig Khachatourian
 Joyce Watkins King and Gary M. King
 Karen Ireland Koestner and
 Steven Koestner
 Martina and Maurice LaBiche
 DeeAnne P. and Roderic S. Leland, Jr.
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 The LSV Partnership, Walter T. Vick III
 Cindy and Marvin Malecha
 Mary and Mark McClear and family
 Beverley and C. Edward McCauley
 Mimi and Claude E. McKinney
 Julie G. McVay
 Anna Marich and Erik V. Mehlman
 Peggy Lyn Middleton
 Kelley A. Moore
 Deborah G. and Jeffrey S. Morgan
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 William O'Brien
 Odell Associates Inc., Marley P. Carroll

Sherry O'Neal
 Richard A. Paschal
 Michael Pause
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 Richard Peters
 Pamela and J.J. Peterson, Jr.
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 Barbara M. Wallace
 Gwen and Lloyd G. Walter
 Barbara S. and Douglas D. Westmoreland
 Barbara Wiedemann
 Charles E. Woodall

Robert Paschal Burns, FAIA



Robert Paschal Burns, FAIA, an architect and teacher who was known nationally as a mentor, friend and leader of his profession, died tragically in an automobile accident near his Chatham County, North Carolina, retirement home.

His loss is deeply felt among professional and academic colleagues, students and North Carolinians who have been positively influenced by his uncommon dedication to the quality of life experienced through architecture. His loss is similarly felt among architectural educators across the United States. As an architect he incorporated the traditions of his North Carolina heritage with the precepts of modernism. His teaching, writing, and interaction with the community reflected his love for historic preservation. His appreciation for the work of Frank Lloyd Wright was reflected in his teaching as well as in his understanding of modern architecture. In education, Professor Burns' life is a story of his involvement with the development, evolution, teaching, and study of architecture at the College of Design. He became the stable figure upon which founding Dean Henry Kamphoefner depended. As a leader within the faculty, his contributions established the study of architecture at NC State as the



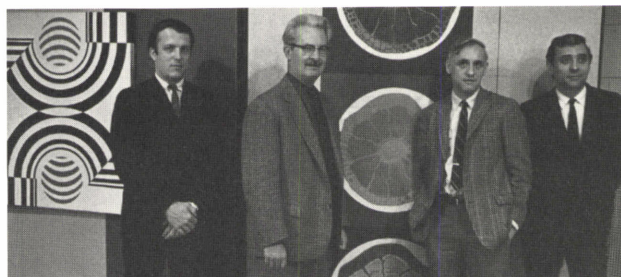
ABIE HARRIS AND BOB BURNS IN GERMANY, 1958

education of design professionals prepared to assume roles of responsibility in society.

Although a talented architect in his own right, Robert Burns chose the path of a teacher. Through his role as an educator his influence is far-reaching. The most tangible result of his passion and commitment are generations of individuals who have risen to places of considerable influence as practicing architects, teachers of architecture, and academic administrators with national leadership positions. His life in design is best understood as a teacher of teachers, a mentor to architects, and a man who nurtured the best in all who came to know him. Professor Burns will be remembered not for the buildings he designed, but for the people he inspired. His continuing dedication to the work of Eduardo Catalano not only amplified his roots in the foundation of the College of Design, but also made evident the importance of structure as the underlying inspiration in his



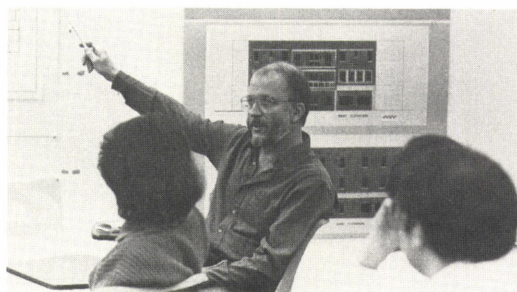
ARCHITECTURE FACULTY, 1968—BOB BURNS IS SEATED AT FAR RIGHT.



BOB BURNS, HENRY KAMPHOEFNER, LEWIS CLARK, DON MASTERTON

disciplined, reasoned approach to building design. Although his importance as a distinguished professor grew, his persona among students was that of a gentle, caring human spirit. His was a spirit of hope and optimism. This spirit pervaded his love for teaching and the love extended toward him by those he taught.

A final enduring mark of his legacy within the College is the leadership he provided in the reemergence of *The Student Publication* of the College of Design. Following the establishment of a supporting endowment through an alumni campaign, Professor Burns undertook the task of connecting the legacy of a dormant student publication with a proud history to a new audience. His patience in guiding the production of the publication (volume 30) with an eager group of students further exemplified his extraordinary ability as a master teacher. The result, both a nostalgic catalogue of past efforts and a stimulating discourse on



BOB BURNS IN CRITIQUE WITH STUDENTS.



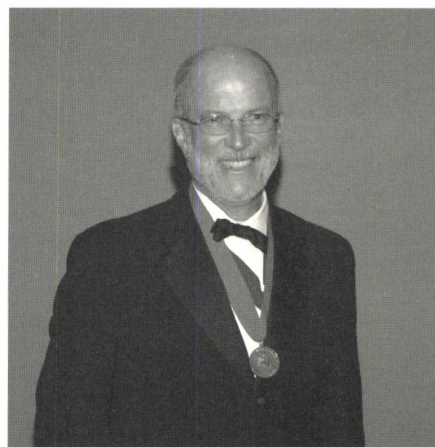
WES MCCLURE, MARVIN MALECHA, SHERWOOD WEBB, CHARLIE BONEY, BILL MONROE, BOB BURNS

design education, is an inspiration for all those who will follow. It is a fitting reminder of his love for the carefully crafted sentence. This publication will forge a link with students of the future to the rich history of the College of Design.

Professor Burns, a native of Roxboro, North Carolina attended Wake Forest College (now University) and North Carolina State College (now University) where he received a Bachelor of Architecture degree in 1957. In that same year he won the 44th Paris Prize in Architecture enabling him to study at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris and to travel in Europe for a year. In 1961 he entered the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and received the Master of Architecture degree a year later. After several years practicing as an architect in the office of Eduardo Catalano in Cambridge, Massachusetts, working on such projects as the MIT Student Center and the Julliard School of Music in New York, he returned to Raleigh to join the faculty of the School of Design at NC State University. He was promoted to full professor and served as the head of the Architecture Department from 1967 to 1974 and from 1983 to 1991. When the School of Design became the College of Design in 2000, the Architecture Department



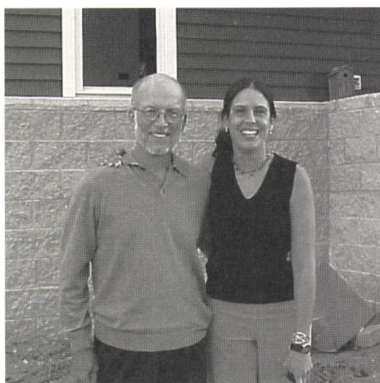
GEORGE MATSUMOTO AND BOB BURNS AT 50TH ANNIVERSARY.



BOB BURNS WEARING HIS 2004 DIETRICK MEDAL.

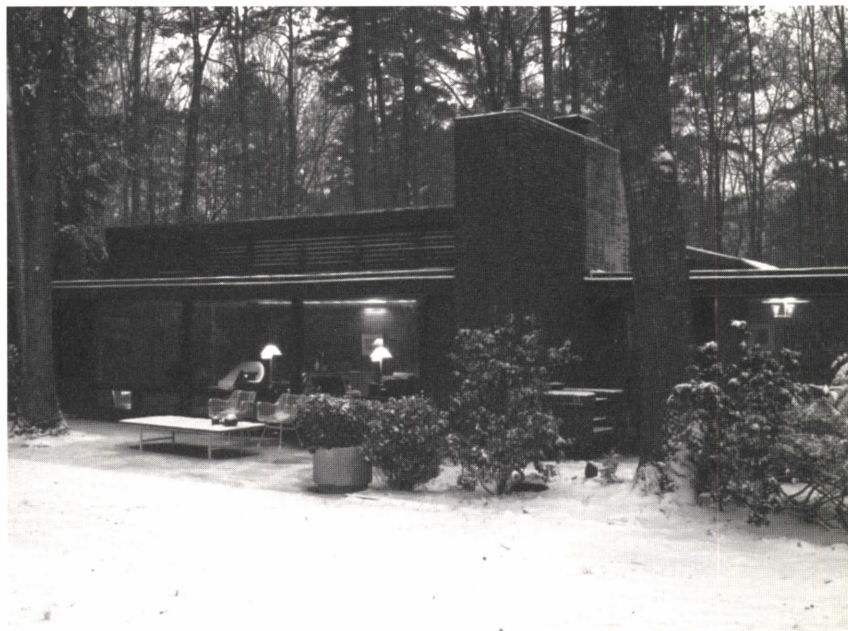
was recognized as the School of Architecture. Professor Burns was then appointed as the Director of the School for the 2001–2002 academic year.

As an architect and an educator, Professor Burns received state and national recognition for his work. He directed a statewide study of North Carolina court facilities for the Administrative Office of the Courts published in 1978 as *100 Courthouses*. The recommendations from this study have helped guide the expansion and improvement of judicial facilities in North Carolina and acted as a model for similar studies across the nation. In 1979, Professor Burns was elected president of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), the national organization of architectural education. He was selected as a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1979 for his achievements in design



BOB BURNS WITH FORMER STUDENT ANNA MARICH.

and education. In 1995 he was chosen as an ACSA Distinguished Professor, a distinction reserved to less than one percent of architecture faculty in North America. In 1996, North Carolina State University awarded him the Alexander Quarles Holladay Medal for Excellence, the highest award to a faculty member in recognition of distinguished service. The Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi bestowed the 1998 National Artist Award on Professor Burns in recognition of “his genuine interest in contributing to the education of students and to the improvement of architecture.” Most appropriately, given his close relationship to Dean Henry Kamphoefner, Professor Burns was presented the 2003 Gertrude S. Carraway Award of Merit by Preservation North Carolina for his preservation and addition to the Kamphoefner home.



RENOVATED KAMPHOEFNER HOUSE



CLYMER CEASE RECOGNIZING BOB BURNS AT 55TH ANNIVERSARY.



BOB BURNS LEADS A BUS TOUR DURING 55TH ANNIVERSARY.



NORMA AND BOB BURNS

The American Institute of Architects North Carolina Chapter awarded Professor Burns the William Henly Dietrick Service Medal in 2004. In the spring of 2004 he was also recognized with the inaugural Isosceles Award of the AIA Triangle Section.

Professor Burns was the son of the late Robert Paschal Burns, Sr., a respected attorney

and state legislator, and the late Marjorie Lacy Burns. He leaves his wife, also a respected architect, Norma DeCamp Burns, FAIA, and his son Robert Adam Burns (a 1988 graduate of the College of Design), daughter Emily Carter Smith and her husband Barry, daughter Linda Paige Burns and grandchildren Everet Ella Smith and Walker Aaron Smith. His brothers Paul and Norvel Burns and his sister Betsy Burns Kennington also survive him. ✱

WRITTEN BY MARVIN J. MALECHA, FAIA, DEAN

REMEMBERING ROBERT PASCHAL BURNS

"Bob Burns served many roles in his life time. Not only was he an accomplished architect but he served as educator, administrator, mentor and more importantly and humbly, as a friend. His service to the world of education was of course exemplary. His service to the architectural profession was equally outstanding. Not only was Bob a true professional but his work raised public awareness of the practice of architecture as well as the importance of its impact to our every day lives."

James Easton Rains, Jr., AIA

BEDA 1980

"Bob Burns was an inspiration to the architectural profession in North Carolina. His talent and expertise will leave a lasting legacy. There are many lives that have been improved because they were touched by Bob's enthusiasm and his passion for quality design. As a trusted advisor, Bob inspired me to push my limits beyond what I would have normally obtained. We will all miss this remarkable man."

Paul Davis Boney, FAIA

BEDA 1977

"Let us sing his praises and extol him.

He left his mark on the classroom and on the studios of North Carolina.

Teachers will try to emulate him and all will fail—for he was unique in warmth and purpose. He was an educator at heart.

He would always search for the right path to the solution of a design problem in order to find and provide the truth—the truth that lit his path.

Let us sing in celebration of his life with the most ardent voices ever to be heard on the Raleigh Campus of North Carolina.

Let us sing his praises and extol him forever.

Bob, you will be with me always."

Eduardo Catalano

Former architecture faculty member

"Bob was a learned architect, a thoughtful professor, a supportive mentor and, most importantly, a caring friend. He had the ability to recognize each student's different strengths and abilities. Bob knew when to instruct, when to listen, when to speak freely and when to provide the appropriate push in the right direction."

Anna M. Marich, Assoc. AIA

BEDA 2001, BArch 2002

"Bob Burns was a gentleman.

He was eloquent and patient, even in the face of the disparate groups with whom he worked. He was reserved, preferring to lead by example. In a profession marked by solitary stars, Bob stood apart because he worked inclusively. He drew beautifully and produced thoughtful designs that represented an approach that appreciated the modern ideal, the local, the theoretical and the practical."

Scott Crowe

BArch 1986

"Working with Bob was a true collaborative effort and a pleasure. He exhibited none of the "artiste" ego of other talented and accomplished architects, such as our mutual hero Frank Lloyd Wright."

Dan Petrocella

Owner, Henry L.
Kamphoefner House

"In every moment spent with Bob, whether in class, in committee meeting or in simple conversation, it was impossible not to come away from that time richer and wiser."

Marshall Dunlap Jr.
MArch 2004

"The healthy environment for learning that he created in his studio has stayed with me through many years of practicing architecture. He is truly an architect of architects, a designer of designers. In this respect, his impact cannot only be counted by his own achievements, but also by the achievements of his students."

Curtis Worth Fentress, FAIA
BEDA 1972

"While the School of Design was not Bob's creation he devoted his energies and emotional fervor to nurturing, leading and caring for her across a fifty year spectrum. Bob's life time devotion ensured her sustained place amongst the architectural academies of distinction. We all are the better for his untiring commitment to our alma mater and for his gifted roles as teacher, mentor, administrator and practitioner. We are blessed and enriched by Bob's unselfish contributions and they will live on through the future successes of the College of Design."

John L. Atkins III, FAIA
BArch 1966

"His love for his family, friends, architecture, and the school was matched by his enjoyment of good food, wine, conversation, and jazz. Disdaining fashion but with a mind open to new ideas, he distinguished the essence, and encouraged its growth in others, and not just in the classroom."

Frederick Taylor
BArch 1953

"He was the ideal student for he was never loud and boisterous, but gained support by critical analysis and sound reasoning. His point of view would stimulate spontaneous discussions to further enrich the entire class."

George Matsumoto, FAIA
Former architecture faculty member

"'Simplicity. Simplicity. Simplicity.' It's not about the big picture; it's about the essence of what you're trying to create. How subtle he was in getting me to think, realize, and live/breathe my design.

Bob Burns had a way of giving you direction and the confidence to create. Not to be afraid of what you don't know, but to be excited about what you can know.

He will always be my mentor."

Phillip Jefferson
MArch 2002

"During Bob's 50 year involvement with the College of Design, substantive changes occurred in our society that had a profound effect on both the educational process and practice of architecture. Bob changed too, but he remained committed to the core values of architecture as a positive force in society and his legacy is embedded in generations of students."

Richard J. Green, FAIA
BArch 1968

"There was always a twinkle in his eye as if he had seen something you had missed, and a shy grin on his face as if he knew something that you should know. His presence brought a humble demeanor and a sense that the water ran deep for him and it did. His thoughts were always on the mark and his words brought an air of intelligence and confidence to any discussion. Our contact was usually through various meetings of professional associations and I remember that many a contentious meeting was calmed by his appropriate comment or a dull group would be sparked by a wry bit of wit at the right time. We had many long meetings of serious issues followed by many long dinners with his delightful stories and his insightful observations. Our friendship was rekindled this year with the Hendersonville Mill Center competition. The community of Hendersonville values the foundation he laid for that project and I appreciated the opportunity to again enjoy his company and again be reminded of his commitment to a community, his understanding of a place and, most importantly, his overriding love of architecture."

William G. McMinn, FAIA

Friend and professional colleague

"Bob demonstrated to us what a true architect should be through his character, his talents and his dedication to our profession."

Julie M. McLaurin, AIA

BEDA 1989 and BArch 1990

"Bob was my first friend in Raleigh and remained so for more than 45 years. He was of great help to me in my first years of teaching and we shared many, many interests. He was a warm and very brilliant person. His dedication to the school has not been equalled. He was a true, Southern gentleman."

Brian Shawcroft, AIA

Former architecture faculty member

"My admiration for his talent, both as an architect and a teacher, is unquestionably of the highest order. His generosity and devotion to his love of teaching will never be forgotten."

Richard C. Peters, FAIA

Friend and professional colleague

"My respect for what Bob did at N.C. State grew as his students came north to New York to make their own contribution (some to work with my firm) or as I went south to visit and teach a studio course and to complete a few buildings in downtown Raleigh. It was there that I learned to really appreciate his incredible patience and serenity, working with his students to place NC State high on the map of architecture schools. We continued to treasure our encounters, two very different architects with opposite life-styles. I looked forward to our meetings, to seek his counsel. I too, became a "student-in-spirit" of the NC State School of Design ... thanks to Bob Burns."

Peter Samton, FAIA

Friend and professional colleague

"His leadership in the profession was exceptionally broad—demonstrated, as example, by his strong advocacy for historic preservation at a school that has long been known for its modernist tradition."

Steven D. Schuster, AIA

BEDA 1973

"Who better epitomized the spirit of the school as it was conceived? Bob was the standard bearer of the heritage that continues to make the College of Design a special place. Bob, in his gentle, wise, insightful way, was the first to remind us that the exhilarating process of the creative act is built upon the foundation of profound thinkers and gifted makers. We have lost a treasure, since Bob did not just educate us about the school's legacy but also witnessed it and shaped it from its very beginning."

Turan Duda, AIA

BEDA 1976

"When it comes to the idea that excellent design can make an enormous difference in the quality of life for an entire society, Bob Burns was a true believer."

Mike Segal

BEDLA 1976

BURNS LECTURE ENDOWMENTS ESTABLISHED

Eduardo Catalano, a former faculty member of the School of Design, has established an

endowed fund in the NC State Foundation, Inc., to pay homage to the life of Professor Emeritus Robert P. Burns Jr. The endowment was funded by a gift of \$200,000 from Catalano and is named

The Robert P. Burns Lectures and Seminars on Structural Innovations.

This endowment will provide funds for an annual lecture and seminar that shall take place in April each year. The distinguished visitor will deliver a public lecture and will conduct informal discussions over two days within an architecture graduate seminar dedicated to innovation and experimental structures. Students will be expected to prepare a written reflection

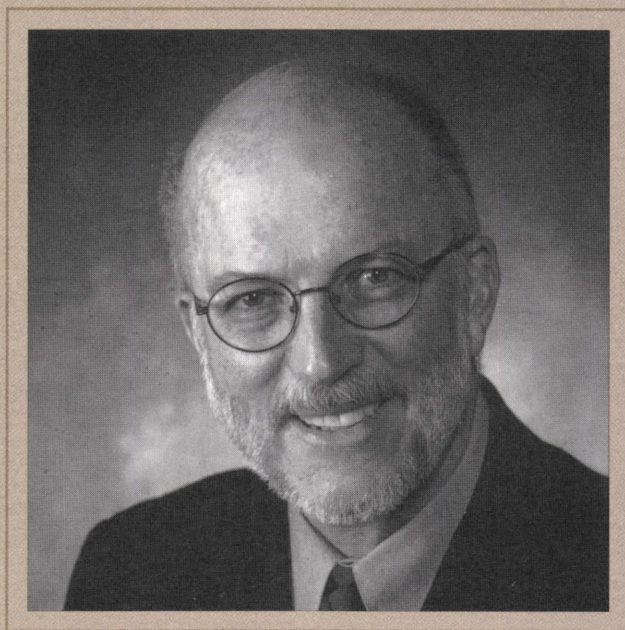
in response to the seminar topic presented by the distinguished visitor. The best two papers will be selected for publication in the lecture monograph.

Catalano was a professor of Robert Burns in the late 1950s at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Burns worked for Catalano in Cambridge, Mass., before Burns returned to Raleigh to teach at the then School of Design in 1965.

Many alumni and friends of Robert Burns have also been generous, donating to the College of Design in Burns' memory. These funds are being placed in another endowment in Burns' name that will support the lecture series established by Eduardo Catalano and provide additional support for the School of Architecture. ★

If you would like to make a gift to honor Bob Burns, please contact the Office of External Relations at (919) 515-8313 or design@ncsu.edu. Checks may be made payable to the NC State Foundation/Robert P. Burns Fund and mailed to:

College of Design, Office of External Relations
Campus Box 7701
Raleigh, NC 27695-7701



December 7, 1933–October 28, 2005