



GRADUATE SCHOOL

Graduate School announces 2001 Outstanding Alumni

Each year, thousands of students earn one of more than 100 degrees through UT's Graduate School and then go on to contribute their expertise to the greater public good. Since 1999, the Graduate School has been recognizing alumni for exceptional achievements in their academic or professional careers. The Outstanding Alumnus Award is given each year to one who has earned a master's degree and one who has earned a doctoral degree. Associate Dean Rick Cherwitz, who proposed creation of this award, says, "It gives much-deserved recognition to UT's extremely successful and accomplished Graduate School alumni who, as citizen-scholars, are making considerable contributions not only to the academic, but to the larger community." This year's winners are no exception.

James C. Moeser is an internationally acclaimed concert organist and, since 2000, chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Originally from Colorado City, Texas, Moeser received his master's in music from UT in 1964. He later went on to earn his PhD from the University of Michigan, and he also completed advanced study in Berlin and Paris as a Fulbright scholar.

Moeser began his academic career in 1966 as an assistant professor and chairman of the Department of Organ at the University of Kansas. After rising through the academic ranks there, he became dean of the School of Fine Arts. In 1984, he was named Althaus Distinguished Professor of Organ, becoming the first academic dean at Kansas ever to hold an endowed chair.

Moeser then was appointed dean of the College of Arts and Architecture and executive director of University Arts Services at Pennsylvania State

University, and later, vice president for academic affairs and provost of the University of South Carolina system, and then as chancellor of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln prior to his installation as chancellor at UNC.

During his tenure at Nebraska, Moeser led initiatives to strengthen undergraduate education, build world-class research programs in targeted areas of excellence, and promote leadership and ethical responsibility within the campus community. Throughout his career, he has established a reputation as a visionary with a passionate commitment to academic excellence and diversity, broad-based administrative experience, and highly effective leadership skills.

Chancellor Moeser says of UT, "This University presents students with incredible opportunities for growth and development, if they take the initiative and take hold of them. I got a great education at The University of Texas in the School of Music. I had a wonderful career as a concert organist and church musician. I loved teaching, and I had excellent students who themselves have had distinguished careers. And now I have a third career as a dean, provost, and now as a chancellor. All of this built on the foundation of the degrees I received at UT."

The 2001 doctoral winner, John M. Coetzee, is a South African novelist of international stature. A distinguished professor in the faculty of humanities of the University of Cape Town, Coetzee received two undergraduate degrees and a master's degree from that institution before receiving his PhD in English from UT in 1969.

Professor Coetzee was nominated in 1996 for the Nobel Prize in Literature and is the only author to ever win the Booker Prize twice, for *The Life and Times of Michael K* in 1983, and *Disgrace* in 1999. His work has won almost every Commonwealth literary award, including the Geoffrey Faber Prize and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize. Other prestigious lit-

erary awards accorded to Coetzee include the South African CNA Prize, The Prix Etranger Femina, the Jerusalem Prize, the *Irish Times* International Fiction Prize, and a Lannan Foundation award for his significant contribution to English Literature. He has received several honorary doctorates and has been a visiting professor or honorary fellow at a number of universities, including UT, where he has taught creative writing at the James A. Michener Center for Writers.

Several of Coetzee's novels are noted for their eloquent protest against political and social conditions in South Africa, particularly the human suffering caused by imperialism, apartheid, and post-apartheid violence, as well as for their technical virtuosity.

"Both the state of Texas and The University of Texas were welcoming and generous to me from the moment I arrived there in 1965," Professor Coetzee says. "I learned a great deal during my

time as a student, as well as during my two subsequent academic visits. It is a source of much satisfaction to me to have kept up the connection with UT to the present day."

When he was appointed as Distinguished Professor, the dean at Cape Town said, "Such appointments are made rarely, for academics who have either excelled beyond their discipline or are considered to be national intellectual assets."

The Graduate School awarded a James C. Moeser Fellowship for 2001-02 to Michael John Malone, a master's candidate in musicology, and a John M. Coetzee Fellowship for 2001-02 to Susan B. Somers-Willett, a doctoral candidate in creative writing. Both Moeser and Coetzee were recognized for their outstanding achievements at the Graduate School Convocation last May.

For more information on the Graduate School Outstanding Alumnus Award, contact Associate Dean Rick Cherwitz at 512/471-4511 or spaj737@uts.cc.utexas.edu.

—Laura Grund, master's student, LBJ School of Public Affairs



James C. Moeser



John M. Coetzee