

**Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta Chapter of Texas  
Citation for Alumnus Membership**

**Dr. James W. Vardaman  
April, 2011**

Dr. James W. Vardaman has meritoriously established himself during a 60-year post-baccalaureate academic career as a noted scholar of European History, with major accomplishments focused on British History. Following his graduation in 1951 from Baylor University he received the M.A. degree from the University of Wisconsin (1952) and the PhD degree from Vanderbilt University (1957). The award of a Ford Humanities Fellowship for 1966-1967 permitted Professor Vardaman to undertake study and research at Duke University and The British Museum.

After four years' teaching at Texas Christian University and five years of faculty service at Virginia Military Institute, he returned to Baylor University to begin a 33-year teaching career in which he became in 1993 one of the four originally designated Master Teachers of the University. Dr. Vardaman was chosen in succession Baylor University Professor of the Year (1968-1969), Outstanding Professor (1986), and Outstanding Contributor to the Honors Program (1999).

Professor Vardaman served with esteem as professor in the Baylor in Vienna Program (1977- 1978), in the Baylor in London Program (1979- 1981), and as Exchange Professor in Yunan Nationalities University in Kunming, Yunan Province, People's Republic of China (1984- 1985). He subsequently served with eminence as Director of Baylor in the British Isles, London, England (1981- 1992) and as Director of the Baylor European Study Abroad Program in Maastricht, The Netherlands (1995- 1997), together with his wife, Associate Dean Elizabeth Vardaman, who also made major contributions, adding to the popularity and value of these international programs. Countless alumni of programs have acclaimed their educational experiences in these international settings to be the most influential scholastic achievements of their lives.

His original work and numerous book reviews in the *Journal of Church and State* have established him as a champion of separation of Church and State. Serving as historian/lecturer on annual Baylor alumni tours since 2000 in Europe, South America, the Middle East, and North Africa, he has accrued a massive congregation of admirers and devotees, who have continuously praised his academic prowess and intellect. Baylor University administrative officials have benefitted extensively from his scholarly acumen in visits to European, Asian, Australian, and New Zealand cities.

Yet it is not for his work on church-state relations or his estimation of the work of others that Dr. Vardaman enjoys and will enjoy lasting fame at Baylor University. It is rather for his remarkable acumen in the classroom, which is barely reflected in the numerous teaching awards he has won. Those tributes cannot begin to describe the vast contribution that Dr. Vardaman has made to the lives of his students, not merely through his inculcating in each and every one of them a love of learning, and specifically an

affection and respect for history, but also through the affection and respect that he has shown for each one of them. Dr. Vardaman's colleagues note that he often speaks about caring for the quiet student in the back of the classroom who would otherwise go unnoticed, encouraging his colleagues to show similar concern, by reaching out to such a person, making him feel that college is a special experience in the context of which every person has value and his or her ideas will be respected. "That kid," Jim Vardaman has said to a number of faculty colleagues, "is why we are here." He believed it; he encouraged it; and he lived it, too.

Not surprisingly, then, numerous student fraternal organizations at Baylor University, Texas Christian University, and Virginia Military Institute have honored him with a host of major achievement awards. The Virginia Military Institute College Bowl team he coached in 1964 for the National General Electric College Bowl achieved the highest score ever attained in that contest up to that time. In gratitude for profound educational contributions, Professor Vardaman's former students and friends have established three Baylor University Scholarships.

In recognition of his scholarship, his classroom excellence, and his intellectual contributions to humane sciences and scholarly letters, the Texas Zeta Chapter of Phi Beta Kappa proudly announces the election of James W. Vardaman to alumnus membership, the highest honor a chapter can give a non-student.