The Association of Retired Faculty is privileged to honor Prof. Clayton “Clay” Stalnaker as the 2015 recipient of the prestigious William C. Friday Award for Distinguished Service in Retirement.

If ever a person could wear the title, “A Man for All Seasons”, it surely falls upon the shoulders of Clay Stalnaker: a redoubtable man-of-letters who has encouraged, enlightened and impressed hundreds of keen students throughout his long and outstanding academic career in the Multidisciplinary Science (MDS) Department, at NC State University. In the process, he has received virtually every major teaching recognition the University has to offer – and, in retirement, he continues to enhance the intellectual life of older students and the community at large through the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (“OLLI”, formerly ENCORE), and through a variety of other voluntary organizations in the Triangle area.

His learned topics cover such subjects as “God and the Imagination”, “The Mystery of Meaning” and “The Mind of the South”. Each of his almost two-dozen courses is very popular and fully enrolled – and like his teaching prowess in general, receives very high ratings. Clay also contributes substantially to the intellectual life of our community through the Quail Ridge Books & Music ‘Town Hall Meetings’ of which he was the originator a decade or so ago. He continues to serve as program organizer and moderator, bringing such topics to public view as: “The Supreme Court’s Citizens United Decision”, “The Creative Arts”, A Challenge to the Media in Democracy”, and “The Greensboro Massacre of ’79 and the Search for Justice”. In addition, he moderated interactive discussion-meetings on the works of such writers as James Baldwin, Flannery O’Conner, Eudora Welty and Reynolds Price.

Clay has been active in other aspects of civic life, also: for example he has been President of the Wake County ACLU, a member of the Board of Directors of the ACLU of North Carolina, a member of the Board of Directors of the Wake County Chapter of the United Nations Association and member of the Steering Committee of the Human Rights Coalition of NC and, Founder and sole director of the Raleigh Area Theology Society (RATS). He was the 2008 recipient of the ACLU’s Finlator Award.