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Dedication

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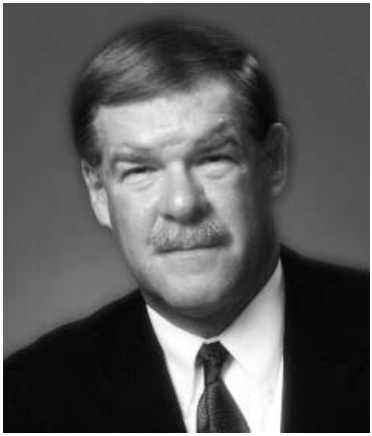
DEDICATION



Gary Bell

Gary Bell has been a stalwart supporter of honors locally, regionally, and nationally for almost twenty-five years. His commitment to honors started even earlier when he was an undergraduate honors student at Brigham Young University, where he got both his BA and MA. He then earned his PhD from UCLA, and, after teaching at Illinois State and Western Illinois University, he joined the faculty of Sam Houston University, where in 1988 he became the founding honors director until 1993. He then moved to Texas Tech University and became Professor of History and Director of the Honors Program, along with other administrative positions, until becoming Dean of the Honors College from 1998 to 2010. While continuing to publish and teach in his field of Tudor-Stuart England, Gary chaired the Council of Texas Honors Administrators from 1994 to 1998. He subsequently served four years as secretary/treasurer and then, in 2001-02, as president of the Great Plains Honors Council. In the NCHC, he was elected to serve on the Executive Committee from 1996 to 1999 and co-chaired the Finance Committee from 1998 through 2010; he is currently serving his second year as treasurer. In addition to being the invaluable moneyman for NCHC, Gary has contributed his intellect and expertise regularly to Beginning in Honors, Developing in Honors, and numerous conference sessions. He has also published essays in the NCHC monograph *The Honors College Phenomenon* and in *Journal of the National Collegiate Honors Council*, including one of my all-time favorites, "Honors and Intercollegiate Athletics," in the spring/summer 2010

issue. Gary has been a dedicated champion of honors, bringing its ideals of intellectual inquiry, critical thinking, inclusiveness, rationality, and rigor into the public forum by giving talks and writing papers for a general audience. Those of us who have had the pleasure of attending Gary's conference sessions or reading his essays have benefited from his seasoned—and occasionally spicy—insights into honors education, and all of us have benefited from his less visible but indispensable work behind the scenes in keeping our organization on track financially. We gratefully dedicate this issue of *Honors in Practice* to our colleague Gary Bell.