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Dedication: Charles (Jack) Dudley

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DEDICATION



CHARLES (JACK) DUDLEY

As this issue of *JNCHC* goes to press, Jack Dudley is beginning the fifty-third fall semester of his academic career (from freshman through honors director to retired part-time instructor) and is at least a contender for the NCHC record. Having earned his bachelor's degree at the University of Georgia and Ph.D. from the University of Oregon, Jack started his teaching career back at his *alma mater* before joining the faculty of Virginia Tech University in the Department of Sociology. He was appointed Director of the Virginia Tech Honors Program in 1990, a position he retained until his recent retirement—but not retirement from teaching. During that time he built the VT program into a complex and highly successful honors adventure for its students, increasing the number of graduates from six in 1990 to 146 in 2008, accruing a substantial endowment for the program, and instituting residential honors communities. His students have won numerous and wide-ranging national fellowships such as the Marshall and Rhodes, and Jack has picked up his own share of impressive awards for the quality of his teaching. His classes and research interests have included the theory of motion in social systems, the sociology of family, and political sociology. He has also produced four films and served as consultant or co-director for numerous theatrical productions.

Those of us in the NCHC know Jack best for the consulting services he provides throughout our annual conferences—not as much the formal consulting that takes place in conference rooms but the kind that takes place in the lobbies and lounges and local hang-outs. Every time I see Jack—and I see him frequently—he is sitting down with a new honors director and sharing his considerable wisdom.

Jack's wisdom was invaluable during and after the horrible events at Virginia Tech on Monday, April 16, 2007. The essay he published in the

summer/spring 2007 issue of *JNCHC* and the lead essay that we have the privilege of publishing in this issue's Forum on "Helping Honors Students in Trouble" are testimony to the intelligence and compassion he has contributed to honors at the institutional, regional, and national levels for the past two decades.