



School of Government Launches New Online Bookstore

In July the School of Government's website launched a new online bookstore that offers a convenient way to search for and purchase publications. The new store provides a searchable database for customers and allows the School to process purchases and manage shipping and inventory more efficiently.

A significant feature of the new system is the ability to search for publications using a variety of criteria, such as topic, author, or title. Customers who search the site by topic, for example, receive a complete list and short descriptions of all related resources, from books and bulletins to *Popular Government* articles.

First-time customers create a personal store profile, entering information just one time and then storing it to make future purchases easier. The system tracks the status of orders and enables buyers to view a record of past purchases. Behind the scenes, the centralized system speeds up the time for shipment of orders and makes business processes more efficient and reliable.

Later this year the bookstore will expand again to include online registration for the School's courses and conferences.

Todd Nicolet, associate dean for information technology, commented, "The online bookstore improves our ability to get the best resources to the right people. Integrating courses into the system will make it even easier for clients to find and acquire what they need in a single visit to our website." To browse the online bookstore, visit the School's website at www.sog.unc.edu and click on "Publications" in the upper-right corner.

School's Website Gets New Look; See It at www.sog.unc.edu

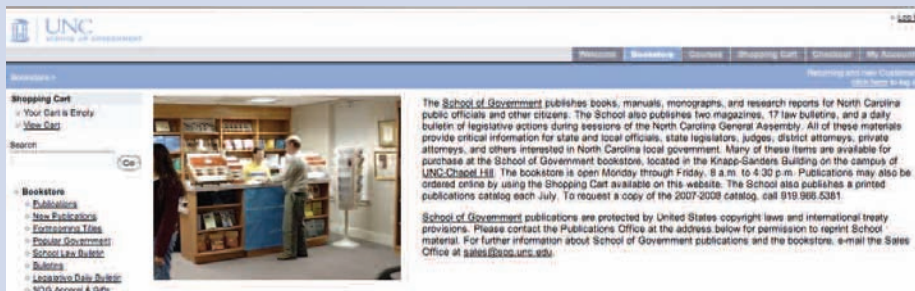
The School of Government's website has a fresh look. The redesigned site features improved navigation and new information that makes it easier for visitors to find what they are looking for.

A "Courses and Resources" link on the front page offers an easy way to find educational resources within twenty-one broad categories:

- Civic Education
- Civil Law and Procedure
- Community and Economic Development
- Community Problem-Solving and Collaboration
- Corrections
- Courts and Judicial Administration
- Criminal Law
- Education Law
- Employment Law
- Environment
- Evaluation and Measurement
- Family Law
- Health and Human Services
- Human Resource Management
- Information Technology
- Juvenile Law
- Land Use Planning and Development
- Leadership and Governance
- Local Government Budget, Finance, and Taxation
- Local Government Law
- State Government

Each category features a Welcome page describing the School's work in that area and links to faculty and program personnel, related sites, courses and course registration, and publications.

Explore the new website at www.sog.unc.edu. To comment on the design or navigation, contact Todd Nicolet, associate dean for information technology, at tnicolet@sog.unc.edu.





As the School of Government completes the commemoration of its seventy-fifth year, Popular Government closes its yearlong series of articles on the institution's history with a profile of one of the earliest faculty members, who currently resides in Chapel Hill.



A Portrait of Elmer R. Oettinger Jr.

Ann Cary Simpson

My first job for Albert Coates was in 1937 when I was in law school," said Elmer R. Oettinger Jr. on a recent sunny September day. Elaborating in an earlier interview, he explained, "I researched and wrote the first *Guidebook*

The author is the School's associate dean for development and communications.

for Notaries Public. I was in on a great many things that happened very early."¹

A man of music, theater, letters, and law, Wilson (N.C.) native Oettinger brought to the Institute of Government a fine legal mind enriched by a wealth of creativity. He served the Institute at two quite different times in its evolution, 1939–41 and 1960–78.

Said Oettinger of his first introduction to the Institute, "Albert Coates [the Institute's founder] was the commencement speaker at my high school graduation. He had been my uncle's roommate at the University of North Carolina and was now a young law professor. Albert told us about his project, the Institute of Government. This was 1930."²

Oettinger entered UNC to study dramatic arts, but Coates regularly exhorted him to choose a new direction: "Albert would say, 'You've got to get rid of all this drama business, and when you do and become a good lawyer, I want you in the Institute of Government.'"³

Oettinger eventually earned four degrees from UNC: AB (1934), LLB (1939),



Top, Elmer Oettinger in 1966; above, Oettinger in 1960

MA (1952, in dramatic arts), and PhD (1966, in English). After earning his undergraduate degree, he continued his study of dramatic arts in graduate school at Columbia University, acted on and off Broadway, and wrote a full-length play, *The Pied Piper*, based on the life of Huey Long, Louisiana governor and U.S. senator.

Health problems forced Oettinger to return to North Carolina, where he "rested" by entering law school.⁴ Working

frequently for Coates while a law student, he officially joined the Institute staff following graduation in 1939. Coates later described Oettinger as “one of half a dozen men whom I have taught during the past decade who seemed to fit the exacting requirements of work on the staff of the Institute of Government.”⁵

Oettinger’s first assignment was to cover the 1939 General Assembly as part of Coates’s Legislative Reporting Service. In spring 1941, he moved to Raleigh to become “the Institute’s man in the legislature” for the duration of the session.

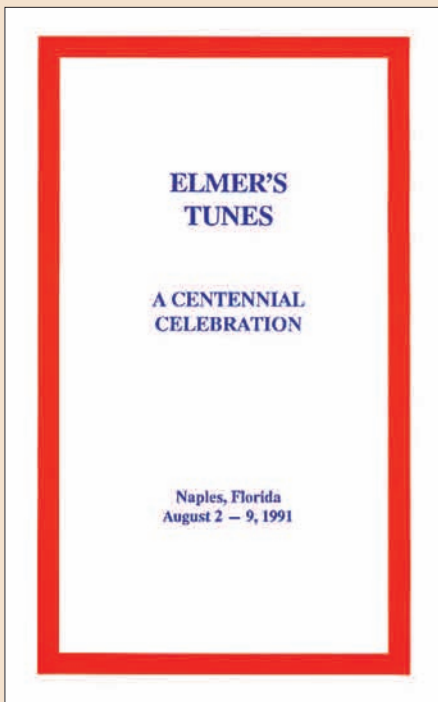
“I would stay up until midnight writing,” he said, “to get the *Daily Bulletin* out the next day. George Riddle, Ashley Seawell, and others [fellow Institute faculty members] would come over and help when they could.” Oettinger also initiated a weekly *Legislative Bulletin*, produced with the help of former staff member Henry Brandis and colleague Dillard Gardner, who pitched in at night.⁶

When World War II broke out, Oettinger left the Institute for the U.S. Navy. His aptitude for breaking codes and ciphers took him to Honolulu, where he served on the staff of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet, at Pearl Harbor.

After the war, he returned to his home town of Wilson, where he first practiced law and then worked as a news director and commentator for Tobacco Radio Network stations in Wilson and WNAO in Raleigh. A highlight of his radio career was covering both 1948 political conventions in Philadelphia, at which he witnessed the Republicans’ nomination of New Yorker Thomas Dewey and the stormy “Dixiecrat” walkout of South Carolinian Strom Thurmond on the Democrats.

In the 1950s he was recruited to help plan and moderate *IDEAS*, a program that ran on the brand-new university educational station, WUNC-TV.

Through his radio and television work, he interviewed an impressive list of national leaders and celebrities, among them Ralph Bunche, Jack Dempsey, Robert Frost, George Gallup, Frank Porter Graham, Paul Green, Basil Rathbone, and Margaret Truman. During this time, Oettinger earned his master’s degree and taught in the departments of English



Oettinger wrote humorous original lyrics set to forty-six popular tunes to help commemorate the Uniform Law Commissioners’ “Century of Service” in 1991.

and Radio, Television and Motion Pictures at UNC at Chapel Hill.

In 1960, finally responding to a series of invitations from Coates, Oettinger returned to the Institute as a specialist in free press and fair trial, open meetings, privacy, copyright, libel, and journalist’s privilege. As his career progressed, he also covered criminal justice, auto insurance law, and the Highway Patrol School. He was consulted regularly by members of the press, broadcasters, government personnel, and public information officers.

During this second term, one of his major contributions was development of the nation’s first News Media—Administration of Justice Council, beginning in 1964. Oettinger described the first meeting of the council as “a horrendous experience” of mixing people who had never worked with one another before and often found themselves on opposing sides of issues: “A phalanx of editors and broadcast newsmen sat across from a phalanx of lawyers and judges, while law-enforcement officials huddled at one far end of the table and I, having called the meeting, sat in glorious isolation at the other.”⁷

Under Oettinger’s guidance, the groups eventually discovered common ground,

and North Carolina’s council became a model for other states.

Oettinger also served as editor of *Popular Government* for twelve years. In fall 1978, just before his retirement, he coedited a special issue of the magazine devoted to press-government issues.

School faculty member Jack Vogt recalled, “The highlight of my work with Elmer was our joint editorship of the 1978 issue of *Popular Government* addressing the press-government relationship in North Carolina. Elmer’s contributions made that issue the best of my five-year stint as editor.”

“Elmer was a mentor to me in my initial years on the faculty,” said Vogt. “He was always very friendly and willing to share insights about the ‘traditions’ of the Institute of Government and our work with North Carolina state and local government clients.”

Vogt continued, “Elmer was one of those ‘pioneers’ who, in the Institute of Government’s early years, made Albert Coates’s dream a successful reality.”

After mandatory retirement from the Institute at age sixty-five, Oettinger continued in emeritus status to teach a law course and work with the American Bar Association on freedom-of-the-press issues.

In 1977, Governor James B. Hunt appointed him to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws, which goes by the acronym ULC, for Uniform Laws Commissioners. He was reappointed to this position by four succeeding governors and continues to be an honorary member. With the ULC, Oettinger traveled to Europe, Africa, Asia, Singapore, and Great Britain, as well as to many locations in the United States. In 1978 he chaired the ULC’s special committee to draft a uniform privacy act for state governments. As a member of the planning committee for the ULC’s centennial celebration in 1991, he brought his flair for humor and dramatic arts to the fore, writing forty-six songs for the celebration, all set to popular tunes. For the first verse of “See the USA,” for example, he penned these words:

*See the USA through the ULC,
America is waiting for our Acts.*



Left, Elmer and Mary Lib Oettinger (left and center) enjoy the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame with another delegate at the ULC's 1998 conference in Cleveland, Ohio; below, Elmer and Mary Lib Oettinger in 2004



*Keep the State law straight,
keep our product great:
America needs certain law and facts.
When the law's uniform, you can keep
harmony,
And bring better law that impacts.⁸*

During his tenure at the Institute and into retirement, Oettinger held an honorary membership in the North Carolina Press Association. In 1990 he received the association's prestigious William C. Lassiter First Amendment Award for promoting free speech and the First Amendment. The award cited Oettinger's initiation of an annual course on court news reporting at the Institute; his writing for a series of booklets with Judge Maurice Braswell to educate the public, especially students, about the media and the courts; and, in particular, his work with the News Media-Administration of Justice Council.

In his nomination of Oettinger for the Lassiter award, Sam Ragan, editor and publisher of *The Pilot* in Southern Pines, highlighted the council as being "the force which brought about a stable and workable relationship in press-bar matters in North Carolina."⁹

Throughout his multifaceted career, Oettinger enjoyed the strong support and encouragement of his like-minded

wife and family. Mary Lib, his dedicated partner of sixty-seven years, retired from a distinguished career in social work, including a term as president of the North Carolina Association of Social Workers. He and she are extremely proud of their sons, Brick, a UNC at Chapel Hill administrator, and Kenny, an attorney in Chapel Hill, and their sons' families.

Oettinger celebrates his ninety-fourth birthday in November 2007. The School congratulates and thanks him for his many outstanding achievements.

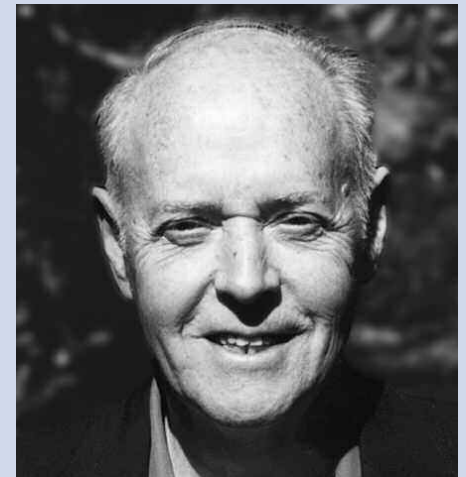
Notes

This article draws on interviews with Elmer R. Oettinger Jr. by the author in September 2007 [hereinafter Simpson interview] and by an interviewer for the Southern Oral History Program in March 2004 (on file in the Oral History Program, UNC at Chapel Hill) [hereinafter Oral History interview].

1. Simpson interview, Oral History interview.
2. Oral History interview.
3. Ibid.
4. Elmer R. Oettinger Jr., *IOGazette* (in-house newsletter of the Institute of Government), June 1979.
5. Albert Coates, letter to U.S. Navy Department, May 19, 1942.
6. Oettinger, *IOGazette*, June 1979.
7. Elmer R. Oettinger Jr., Remarks on acceptance of the Lassiter award, Kiawah Island, S.C., July 27, 1990, as reprinted in *The Southern Pines Pilot*, July 30, 1990.
8. Elmer R. Oettinger Jr., *Elmer's Songs* (a commemorative booklet of forty-six songs), produced for the Centennial Conference of the Uniform Law Commissioners, Naples, FL, 1991.
9. Sam Ragan, letter to Teri Saylor (North Carolina Press Association), May 3, 1989.

Heath Receives 2007 Newton Award

In April 2007, School of Government professor Milton S. Heath Jr. received the 2007 Newton Underwood Award for Excellence in Teaching from the School of Public Health, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The award is presented to Environmental Sciences and Engineering (ESE) faculty members who exhibit the conscientious dedication to students and teaching typified by former ESE professor Newton Underwood.



Nominations, discussions, and a vote of ESE graduate students determine the award recipient. Heath was honored for his excellence in teaching, his knowledge of the course material, his relevant experience, and his interaction with students. Students' nomination comments included "Dr. Heath goes out of his way to make himself accessible to his students, and to communicate how much he cares about and enjoys them as individuals."

Heath has taught a graduate-level course in the ESE program since 1961. He joined the School of Government in 1957, where he specializes in conservation and environmental law.

Crowell, Markham, Smith Join School Faculty

The School of Government is pleased to welcome Michael Crowell, James M. "Jamie" Markham, and Karl W. Smith to its faculty.

Crowell joined the faculty in August 2007 as professor of public law and gov-

ernment, focusing on the law of judicial administration. He previously served on the faculty from 1970 to 1985, during which time he also was a consultant to the North Carolina Criminal Code Commission (1978–83), assisted various legislative study commissions, and was director of bill drafting for the General Assembly (1981).

From 1985 to 2007, he practiced law with Tharrington Smith, LLP, in Raleigh, specializing in administrative law, local government, elections, appeals, voting rights, redistricting, legislation, and mediation. Crowell took time out from practice for two years to serve as executive director of the Commission for the Future of Justice and the Courts in North Carolina and was principal author of the commission's 1996 report, *Without Favor, Denial or Delay: A Court System for the 21st Century*. He also was active in various other efforts at court improvement.

Crowell holds a BA from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and a JD, cum laude, from Harvard Law School. He may be contacted at 919.966.4438 or crowellm@sog.unc.edu.

In July 2007, Markham joined the School as assistant professor of public law and government in the area of criminal law and procedure with a focus on the law of sentencing, corrections, and conditions of confinement. While working on his law degree, he served as a summer law clerk at the School in 2006 and as a summer associate for law firms in Greensboro and Raleigh.

Before entering law school, Markham spent five years in the U.S. Air Force, where he earned the rank of captain and served as flight commander and political-military analyst. He also was a travel writer for Let's Go, Inc., contributing to the Russia and Ukraine chapters of *Let's Go: Eastern Europe*.

Markham holds a BA in government, cum laude, from Harvard College and a JD from Duke University, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Duke Law Journal*. He may be reached at 919.843.3914 or markham@sog.unc.edu.

Smith joined the School full-time in May 2007 as assistant professor of public law and government specializing in economics and tax issues. Smith is the creator of An Interactive Model of North Caro-

lina's Tax Structure, commonly called the Tax Calculator. This spreadsheet allows a user to see present and future effects of changes in rates and bases of major state and local taxes in North Carolina.



Michael Crowell



James M. Markham



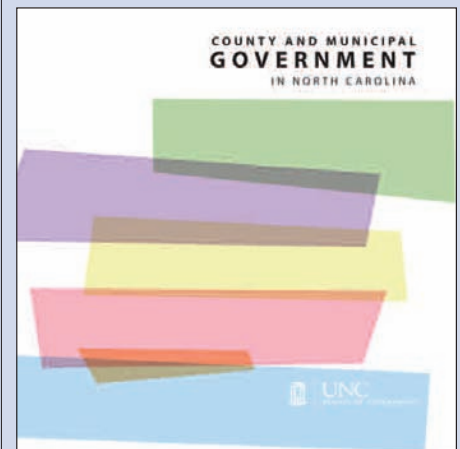
Karl W. Smith

Smith's work includes analyzing economic issues such as income tax, business tax incentives, economic impact of industries and businesses, and tax-change impacts that affect community and economic development in North Carolina. He also works on behalf of the School with the State and Local Fiscal Modernization Study Commission established by the North Carolina General Assembly. His responsibilities with the commission include research on the state's income tax structure, the relationship between the state and local governments in financing Medicaid, and the financial impact of proposed changes in the tax structure.

Before joining the faculty, Smith spent five months as a research associate at the School, working on tax reform issues. He also was a graduate fellow with the North Carolina State University Institute for Emerging Issues. He holds a BS and a PhD in economics from North Carolina State University. He may be reached at 919.966.9393 or karl@sog.unc.edu.

County and Municipal Government Publication Breaks New Ground

A new reference book, *County and Municipal Government in North Carolina*, became available in July 2007. The \$95 publication is the only comprehensive treatment of the legal foundations, organization, and administration of the state's counties and cities. This new publication updates and replaces two books, *County Govern-*



ment in North Carolina, last published in 1998, and *Municipal Government in North Carolina*, last published in 1996.

For the first time, this complete reference on North Carolina county and municipal government is offered as a CD-ROM and as individual articles that may, at no charge, be viewed on the School's website and saved to a personal computer for reference as nonprintable PDFs. In addition, the book may be purchased in loose-leaf format or as individual articles in PDF format.

A new online shopping cart now makes it possible for buyers to browse, search for, and purchase books or bulletins directly from the School's website. For more information or to make a purchase, visit the School's County and Municipal Government Web page, www.sog.unc.edu/pubs/cmng, or call the Publications Sales Office at 919.966.4119.

Visiting Professor McColl to Assist with Education Law

Ann McColl joined the School in August 2007 for a one-year term as a visiting associate professor. She is an attorney and an associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership in the College of Education at UNC-Charlotte.

During her visiting term, McColl will conduct legal and policy research on the responsibilities of state and local government for North Carolina's system of public education. The purpose is to provide state and local leaders with a better understanding of the ways in



Michael Zirkle

which roles have evolved over time and new ways in which existing roles could be defined.

McColl also will work with faculty members Robert Joyce and Laurie Mesibov to prepare and deliver the School's advanced training for local elected officials on education law and the public education system.

McColl has practiced law in Raleigh and has served as legal counsel and director of policy for the North Carolina School Boards Association and as legal counsel for the North Carolina Association of School Administrators. She is a graduate of UNC at Chapel Hill, where she earned a BA and a JD.

Brookshire Is Wicker Scholar for 2007-8

The School of Government congratulates Laura Brookshire, this year's recipient of the Warren Jake Wicker Undergraduate Scholarship.

Brookshire is a 2007 graduate of Brevard High School in Transylvania County. She graduated first in her class at Brevard and was a semifinalist for the University's prestigious Morehead-Cain scholarship. In high school she was an officer in the student council and participated in band, cross-country, and track. She volunteered extensively for community service organizations, including the Boys and Girls Club, Girls on the Run, and 4-H, in addition to tutoring elementary school students in reading and math. Her parents are employed by Transylvania County and Transylvania County Schools.

The \$1,000 scholarship is awarded annually to an entering first-year student at UNC at Chapel Hill with a parent who has worked at the local government level for five or more years. The next application deadline is April 1, 2008. For more information, contact Megan Dillin, UNC Office of Scholarships, at megan_dillin@unc.edu or 919.962.3620.

The scholarship was created by the 1990 Municipal and County Administration class to honor the course director, Warren Jake Wicker. Wicker was a member of the School faculty for forty-eight years—until his death in 2003.

Wicker Scholarship Available for First-Year Student Entering UNC at Chapel Hill in 2008

If you are a local government employee with a rising high school senior who has been accepted for next year by UNC at Chapel Hill, encourage him or her to apply for the Warren Jake Wicker Scholarship.

Each spring the UNC at Chapel Hill Office of Scholarships seeks first-year undergraduate applicants for this \$1,000 scholarship.

The student must have at least one parent who has been continuously employed full-time by a North Carolina city or county government for at least five years before January 1, 2008. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of relative financial need and academic promise.

To apply, send a letter of application to Wicker Scholarship, UNC at Chapel Hill Office of Student Aid, P.O. Box 1080, Chapel Hill, NC 27514. For additional information or to e-mail a letter of application, contact Megan Dillin at megan_dillin@unc.edu or 919.962.3620.

The application must be received on or before April 1, 2008.



Scholarships Are Available!

Members of the LGFCU are eligible for scholarships to cover tuition at School of Government courses. Applications are accepted year-round. The next deadline is December 1, 2007. For more information, call 1.800.344.4846, e-mail info@lgfcu.org, or visit www.lgfcu.org and click on Applications.