

1995 RESEARCHER OF THE YEAR

James L. Hill

Dr. James L. Hill is a professor of English and Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. This recognition is a peer-bestowed honor, granted by the Graduate Research Council to the faculty member who has completed research that gained national visibility during the past three years.

A professor of graduate and undergraduate level courses, Dr. Hill is a prolific researcher and writer. He is currently involved in a major research project for the *Oxford Companion to African-American Literature*, a volume that will be published within two years. *The Companion* will be a standard reference for scholars in the discipline, and Dr. Hill has been commissioned to write articles on five authors and two books.

Dr. Hill believes that research is central to the improvement of teaching in the classroom. "Through research we are able to provide students with the latest on subjects that they are studying," he said. "It is essential that students are kept abreast of the latest developments in their disciplines, especially as they enter the working world or advance on to graduate schools."

Dr. Hill is also supportive of faculty research. He was the founder and editor of the *Albany State College Journal*, which is currently being re-established to support faculty productivity in research and give faculty an additional avenue for publication. For the past several years, Dr. Hill also has had a continuing involvement in the research as the series editor for *Studies in African and African-American Culture*. As editor, he solicits and approves all manuscripts for the publication of books in the *Studies* series.

In motivating students to pursue research, Dr. Hill has directed a summer Research Institute, funded by the U.S. Department of Education. The Women and Minorities project encourages students to enroll in doctoral programs of study. In 1994, 34 students from colleges and universities across Georgia participated in the Institute held at Albany State College.

Dr. Hill is actively involved in several professional organizations. He serves as the chair of the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), a group of 25,000 college English professors. He also is a member of the NCTE Executive Committee and will direct the organization's summer Literature Institute for Teachers, which will be held in June 1996. His other memberships include Conference on College Composition and Communication, the College Language Association and the Association of Departments of English, which he has chaired.

Dr. Hill is a member of Alpha Kappa Mu National Honor Society, Who's Who in the South and Southwest, and Who's Who in Black America. He received the Governor's Award in the Humanities in 1987 and is a graduate of Leadership Albany. In 1989, he was a Governor's appointee to the Georgia DeSoto Trail Commission. Dr. Hill joined the Albany State faculty in 1977. He is a graduate of Fort Valley State College and Atlanta University, where he earned a Master of Arts degree. He earned a Ph.D. degree from the University of Iowa in Major American Civilization and African-American Studies.

Previous recipients of Researcher of the Year Awards are Dr. Gary S. Green, 1994; Dr. Lee W. Formwalt, 1991; Dr. Richard Anson, 1990; and Dr. Robert Ramsey, 1989.



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