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Painting of Mr. Frances by Kyle Keith

Title: Painting of Mr. David Francis

Artist: Kyle Reeves Keith

David Francis is a 1955 alum of High Point University, who, along with his wife, Betty Lord Francis, a 1957 alum, donated the funding for the David and Betty Lord Francis Auditorium in the Phillips School of Business. Mr. Francis is the owner of Marsh Realty in Charlotte.

Kyle Reeves Keith is a portrait artist living in Jacksonville, Florida whose works are owned extensively throughout the United States. Reeves has studied under Leland McClelland, Andrew Reiss, and Everett Raymond Kinstler. He earned a degree in painting and sculpture at the Columbus College of Art and Design as well as a Master of Fine Arts from the New York Academy of Art. Keith’s paintings have been reviewed in ArtNews and some of his subjects have included federal judges, mayors and other officials. Keith currently teaches painting and drawing at the University of North Florida as well as keeping up with a growing portrait business.
The Phillips Family has had a long tradition of supporting the School of Business at High Point University. Before Ambassador “Phil” Phillips made the Phillips Hall possible, his father, Earl Phillips, Sr. was the namesake and a major contributor to the Earl N. Phillips School of Business. Earl Phillips (b1897 d1975), was an entrepreneur who saw the potential of the home furnishings industry and, over a 50-year career, founded companies offering upholstery fabric, polyurethane foam, springs, financing, and showroom facilities. After college at Washington and Lee University and William and Mary College, Phillips joined DuPont as a sales representative for the state of Virginia. In 1932, he moved to High Point, and with his uncle W. Stanley Davis, founded Phillips Davis, Inc. This fabric converting and sales company grew to become Phillips Mills which included a fabric weaving mill in Monroe, North Carolina, and a velvet mill in Jamestown, North Carolina.
Phillips co-founded Phillips Foscue Corporation in 1957, Factors, Inc., a financial services provider, was started in 1958, and First Factors in 1972. Seeing the need for showroom and hotel space for the growing Southern Furniture Market, he, with others, was instrumental in the development of the Furniture Plaza Showroom Building and the adjacent Holiday Inn. Phillips also enjoyed business endeavors “related to the industry” and was founding chairman of the world-renowned Hatteras Yacht Company and the String & Splinter Club, a High Point community institution. He served as Mayor of High Point from 1945 to 1949 and endowed the Phillips School of Business at High Point University in 1965.

Jamie Lee McMahan decided to become a portrait artist after he completed a two-year trip around the world. McMahan studied at the University of Memphis, where he completed studies in both fine art and mathematics. For a while after graduation, McMahan worked for IBM and painted on the side. He decided to devote himself to portraiture after viewing many famous works by artists such as Sargent, Chase, Raeburn, and Velasquez. Since that time, McMahan has painted a wide variety of subjects including senators, governors, judges, and university president as well as children and pets. Among his most famous subjects has been author, Alex Haley.
Title: Portrait of Ambassador Earl N. Phillips, Jr.

Artist: John Howard Sanden

Born in High Point, North Carolina, Earl N. “Phil” Phillips, Jr. is a graduate of Woodberry Forest School in Orange, Virginia, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Harvard Business School. In 1972, he co-founded and was President and Chief Executive Officer of First Factors Corporation, a financial services company, which was acquired by GE Capital in 1998. He also was a partner in Showplace, Hamilton Properties, and Phillips Interests, all real estate development and management companies specializing in home furnishing showrooms and offices. Mr. Phillips served two terms as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and served as a member of the University of North Carolina Endowment Board for sixteen years. He was appointed by the North Carolina General Assembly to a four-year term on the University of North Carolina Board of Governors overseeing the sixteen campuses of the University of North Carolina system.

In 1999-2000, Phillips served as Chairman of North Carolina Citizens for Business and Industry, the State Chamber of Commerce known as “the voice of business in North Carolina,” and was Co-Chair of North Carolinians for Educational Opportunity 2000. Earl N. Phillips, Jr. was sworn in on February 28, 2002 as the United States Ambassador to the Eastern Caribbean serving the seven island nations of Barbados, Dominica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Antigua and Barbuda, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Grenada.

John Howard Sanden has been a leading portrait artist in the United States for over 37 years. His subjects have included hundreds of important figures in the areas of government, business, education, and professions such as law and medicine. Sanden has taught many classes on the subject of portraiture, and teaches at the Art Students League of New York where he also produces instructional videos and has written a book of his memoirs entitled Face to Face With Greatness.