

## Galyon Sees Transportation as Key to State's Economic Development

By Thomas Russell

This is a highlight year in state – and world – transportation and J. Douglas Galyon '53, is helping spread the word.

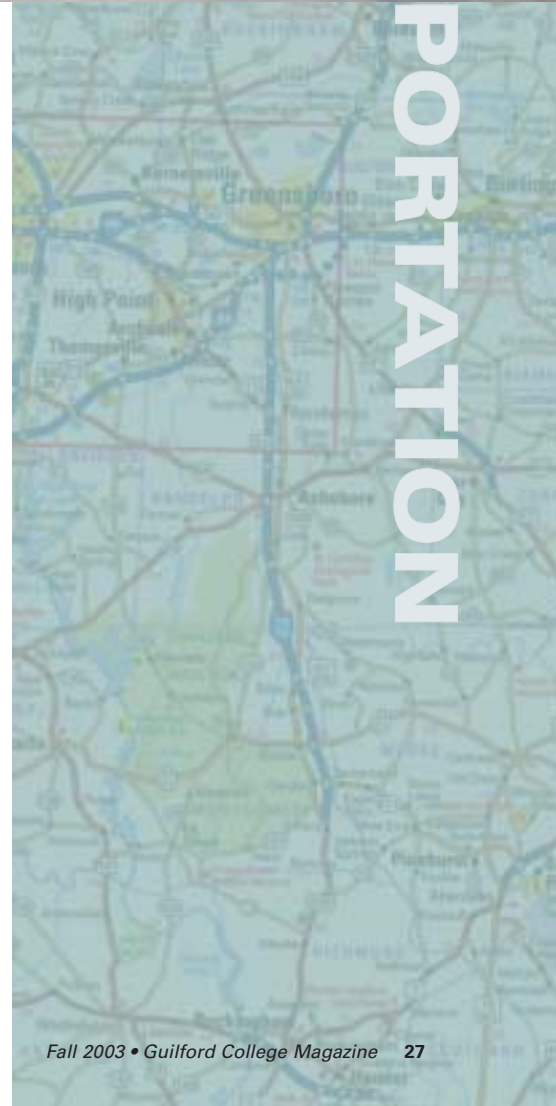
At his Greensboro office, he hands a visitor several state transportation maps promoting the 100th anniversary of the Wright Brothers' historic flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C.

The anniversary isn't until Dec. 17, but this is one way Galyon can tout the strides North Carolina has made in air transportation. In addition to three major air-

ports and smaller municipal locations, the map highlights events celebrating the history of flight in North Carolina.

The map plays another important role. It shows the strides the state has made to provide one of the best interstate networks in the nation. Combined with other highways, it totals 78,000 miles, ranking only second to Texas in the amount of state-maintained roads.

But Galyon doesn't take this status for granted. As the chairman of the powerful state Board of Transportation he wants to see the network keep improving.



## Greensboro Depot Named in Galyon's Honor

The City of Greensboro honored **Doug Galyon '53** by naming the renovated former Southern Railway passenger station downtown the J. Douglas Galyon Depot.

The announcement came at the end of an Aug. 29 ceremony dedicating the station as a transportation center for local, regional and long-distance buses. Trains are scheduled to return next year, and when all phases of the project are completed, Galyon Depot will be the state's largest transportation center. The \$19.2 million first phase was financed with city, state and federal money and is part of the city's downtown revitalization plan.

Galyon's influence "has helped Greensboro remain as the Gate City," Mayor **Keith Holliday '75** told the ceremony gathering, which included U.S. Rep. **Howard Coble '53**.

"Maintenance is probably the greatest need we have right now," Galyon says, noting that much of the money spent in the last decade has been on construction. "The state has grown so much in the last 10 years that we have had a tough time meeting those (growth) needs. Now we have to address maintenance needs."

Each month, Galyon leads a 19-member board that discusses those and other issues. It starts with an all-day work session that addresses the agenda in detail. The following morning, the board reconvenes for about two hours to approve the agenda.

Galyon was first appointed to the board in 1993 by then-Gov. Jim Hunt. He became chairman two years ago and began his third year in that role this spring. The board again will decide in March 2004 whether to reappoint him chairman or let him serve as a board member for the duration of his term, which expires in 2005.

Regardless, he has gained much respect in his role.

Fellow board member **Mac Campbell Jr. '67** joined the board three years ago and recalls the guidance and support Galyon offered from the start. "The first thing he did was to take me under his wing and make me feel part of the board," he says.

Campbell also said Galyon has shown the leadership necessary to bring about consensus among board members.

"He is a first-class person, that is the only way you can describe it," Campbell says. "And he has the highest integrity you can command; otherwise, he wouldn't be chairman for as many years as he has been chairman."

"Doug Galyon has demonstrated his keen interest in improving his community and state through his service as a member of the North Carolina Board of Transportation," adds Lyndo Tippet, NCDOT secretary. "A considerable portion of Doug's life has been spent on causes which benefit us all. As chairman

of the board, he has provided leadership which has resulted in advancements for transportation while protecting our state's natural resources."

That role is just one of many Galyon, 73, has had over his career, the past 29 of which have been with apparel maker Guilford Mills Inc. as director of public affairs and director of yarn procurement.

From 1982-84, he served on the Greensboro City Council, and from 1985-88 he was a Guilford County Commissioner. He also has served on the boards of the Greensboro Merchants Association and the N.C. Textile Manufacturers Association and the United Arts Council to name a few.

But the NCDOT is where he has had the most statewide impact. Each year it votes to include more than a billion dollars in projects across the state that make up a 4-inch thick document known as the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The latest version covers 2004-10.

Galyon developed an interest in transportation issues during his service as a city councilman and county commissioner. In dealing with those issues, he promotes economic development for a state that is losing manufacturing jobs.

"We will have as good a highway infrastructure as any area in the Southeast," he says. "And as we lose our manufacturing capabilities, I think we can pick up distribution and warehouse (activity) and some high tech manufacturing. That has been my goal for 10 years. At that time, I did not see the demise of furniture and textiles, but I did see the opportunity to make this a transportation hub."

Having graduated 50 years ago with a bachelor of arts degree in economics, he sees his education at Guilford as essential to his professional development and public service. "I am a strong advocate of a liberal arts education and Guilford exposed me to many different facets of life which has improved my quality of life," he says. "I have used that knowledge in my business career and in my civic career."