Vick Williams, M.D., Ph.D., clinical professor in the Department of Cellular and Structural Biology, is honored for half a century of state service by President William Henrich, M.D., MACP, and Michael Black, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer. Dr. Henrich is presenting a copy of The Crown Jewel, a book that chronicles Health Science Center history. Mr. Black is presenting an inscribed 50-year service statue of an eagle.

Dr. Vick Williams has seen a lot of sunrises and sunsets at the UT Health Science Center. On July 26 Dr. Williams was honored by William Henrich, M.D., MACP, and Michael Black, senior executive vice president and chief operating officer, for 50 years of service to the state of Texas, including more than 40 years at the Health Science Center.

Dr. Williams received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the UT Medical Branch at Galveston, where he was hired in 1961 while still a graduate student. Subsequently he worked at the UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas from 1965 to 1970. He then joined the Health Science Center where he has taught, by conservative estimate, at least 5,000 medical students and 2,500 dental students.

“I was hired here when the Dental School was started,” Dr. Williams said. “My job was to develop the anatomy program for the first-year dental students. When the Health Science Center was formed in 1972, I became part of the Anatomy Department [now called Cellular and Structural Biology]. I didn’t begin teaching medical students until the early 1980s.”

As a member of the Cellular and Structural Biology faculty, he was director of the Willed Body Program from 1981 until 2002. For his efforts, he received the President Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1983.

Dr. Williams and wife, Dorothy, have two daughters and are moving to Boulder, Colo., where one of their daughters lives.

Reflecting on how the campus has changed since his arrival, Dr. Williams said, “I couldn’t have imagined what we are looking at today when I came here in 1970.”