



In Fond Memory of Gladys Hall Coates

Gladys Hall Coates, who, with her late husband, Albert, established and nurtured the Institute of Government, died Wednesday, September 25, 2002, at her home in Chapel Hill. She was 100.

Albert and Gladys Coates were for so long the heart and soul of the Institute of Government, and their philosophy and sound original vision continue to be at the heart of what we do to this day. We owe them an enormous debt of gratitude, for without them this unique institution would never have been conceived or have contributed so much to North Carolina. Mrs. Coates had a wonderful spirit and keen intelligence that many of us were privileged to share over the years. We will all miss her presence among us.

—*Michael R. Smith, Dean, School of Government*

Gladys Coates symbolized the graciousness and gentility and all that went with being a southern lady. She was an enormous asset to UNC.

—*William C. Friday, President Emeritus, UNC System*

Gladys Coates was a wonderful woman whose life has been a symbol of love, loyalty, courage, and achievement. Everyone knew Gladys complemented Albert's ideas with her own cogent thoughts and gracious personality.

—*Elmer Oettinger, Professor Emeritus of Public Law and Government, a former student of Albert Coates and a former assistant director of the Institute*

Unquestionably one of the most important figures, along with her beloved husband, Albert, in Carolina's history.

—*James Moeser, Chancellor, UNC Chapel Hill*

Mr. Coates used to characterize their marriage by saying it was a match of Tidewater, Virginia, with Swampwater, North Carolina.

—*Henry Lewis, Kenan Professor Emeritus and a former director of the Institute of Government*

A native of Portsmouth, Virginia, Gladys Hall Coates moved to Chapel Hill in 1928 as the bride of Albert Coates, who was then a professor at the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law. The couple met when she was a junior at Randolph-Macon Woman's College in Lynchburg, Virginia. She received a bachelor's degree in history from the college in 1924 and then taught school for four years before moving to North Carolina.

The impact of the Coateses' union was such that no opposition could match it. As a team, they set about creating the Institute of Government, where students could learn about life in public service. With grace and élan, Mrs. Coates provided the support that Mr. Coates needed to accomplish their dream.

In 2001 UNC Chapel Hill bestowed on Mrs. Coates an honorary doctor of laws in recognition of her writing, publications, and contributions to the study of women and government.

The Coateses were the first couple to have separate endowed professorships named in their honor at UNC Chapel Hill.

A garden courtyard being built at the School of Government has been named in memory of Mrs. Coates and her extraordinary contributions. Memorial contributions toward landscaping and furnishing the courtyard may be made to the Institute of Government Foundation, CB# 3330 Knapp Building, UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330.

—Adapted with permission from a story by Valarie Schwartz, in *The Chapel Hill News*, September 29, 2002



Above: Gladys Coates in the 1930s.
Below: Gladys and Albert Coates in front of the original Institute of Government in 1936 (left); Albert and Gladys in the 1970s (right).

