

A Fond Farewell to 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. (For an obituary, see the Web supplement to this issue, available online at <http://ncinfo.iog.unc.edu/pubs/electronicversions/pg/pgfal02/coates.pdf>.)



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



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, School of Government, and a former director of the Institute*



Above: Gladys Hall Coates. Clockwise from top right: Mrs. Coates with former UNC Chapel Hill Chancellor Paul Hardin; with Ann Sanders, wife of former Institute director John Sanders; with Mr. Coates at the time of his retirement in 1962; and with Janet Mason, Gladys Hall Coates Professor of Public Law and Government, in 2001.



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

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

—James Moeser,
chancellor, UNC Chapel Hill

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, UNC Chapel Hill, a former student of Albert Coates, and a former assistant director of the Institute*