



Gladys Hall Coates Celebrates 100 Years

On May 19, 2002, Gladys Hall Coates, wife of Institute founder, Albert Coates, celebrated her 100th birthday at home in the company of friends and colleagues. An extraordinary woman, Coates was awarded an honorary degree in May 2001 from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

On the occasion of the award, School of Government faculty member Joe Ferrell prepared and presented a special citation. An excerpt from that citation follows:

“Gladys Hall Coates came to Chapel Hill in 1928 from her native Virginia as the young bride of a law professor. Mrs. Coates never matriculated as a student; never held a faculty position or taught a class; never served on the Board of Trustees. Yet her lifetime of achievement and service to North Carolina and this University stands as the epitome of loyalty, devotion, gentility, and steadfast commitment to an ideal.

“It is impossible to speak of one member of the Coates family without mentioning the other, for they were not only husband and wife but a team whose success was mutually interdependent. Albert Coates founded the Institute of Government in 1931. The Institute . . . stands today as the nation’s oldest, largest, and most influential university-based public service organization. Mrs. Coates was there at its birth, nurtured it through infancy, and, in tandem with her husband, brought it to maturity.

“The partnership . . . produced dozens of books and monographs, some bearing only Albert Coates’s name on the cover but all influenced by Mrs.

Coates’s keen intellect and close attention. Gladys and Albert Coates were the first couple to have separate endowed professorships named in their honor at Carolina, and the building on Franklin Street that first housed the Institute of Government was named the Albert and Gladys Coates Building in 1997.

“Mrs. Coates has received numerous awards and honors throughout her lifetime. One of the best we can now bestow is our sincerest admiration, affection, and steadfast commitment to the ideal of the Institute of Government, which continues to strengthen the governance and civic fabric of North Carolina.”

Happy Birthday, Mrs. Coates!



Mrs. Coates on her 100th birthday (above) and at the Institute in the 1940s (right).

Wicker Receives Chancellor’s Award

Warren Jake Wicker, an Institute of Government faculty member for almost 47 years despite his official “retirement” in 1991, has received a 2002 Chancellor’s Award from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Wicker is one of five people chosen for Chancellor’s Awards this year.

Among those who nominated Wicker for the Chancellor’s Award was Cal Horton, manager of Chapel Hill. Horton’s words capture the essence of Wicker’s unique contributions and special place in the history of the Institute:

“It is impossible to know the actual number of public officials and employees who have sought his advice, but the number would be in the thousands. For



Warren Jake Wicker

courthouse in North Carolina. He knows and is able to recount the history of public administration successes and failures in hundreds of communities and is called on frequently as the institutional memory of the state. He has been the teacher of police chiefs, electric distribution system superintendents, purchasing directors, planners, traffic engineers, revenue collectors, public works directors, public health directors, landscape supervisors, recreation program coordinators, fire marshals, animal control managers, cemetery managers, and town managers, as well as county commissioners and council members.

“Jake is respected for being fair and balanced in his work. He is famous for being able to explain seemingly complex matters in such simple terms that you wonder why it seemed so difficult before his helpful intervention. His retirement, in reality, is a fiction. He has not retired. He still maintains regular office hours; keeps up with the literature in his many fields of interest; responds to dozens of telephone inquiries from elected and appointed officials from all over the state; and behaves in most ways exactly as he did when he was considered not to be retired.

“Jake Wicker truly is a remarkable man. In his career he has through his teaching and counseling influenced thousands of public officials to improve their performance; he has encouraged them by his own good example to treat everyone with dignity and respect; and with his great good humor, he has lightened many troubled moments.”

Congratulations, Jake, from all the thousands whose lives you have touched and made better.

—Ann C. Simpson