

Coates CONNECTION

News from the School of Government



Richard and Judy Vinroot's gift to the School of Government will provide fellowships that fully support students for two years of study in the Master of Public Administration program and support a distinguished professorship.

A personal DECISION, A PROFOUND IMPACT

"WE DECIDED WE WANTED TO DO SOMETHING SIGNIFICANT

in our lives in gratitude for what the University has meant to us and our children," said Richard Vinroot of the \$1 million pledge he and his wife, Judy Vinroot, made in 2009 to the School of Government.

Forty-five years of close personal, professional, and public friendship provided a focus for that decision: the funds would be endowed in honor of Richard and Judy's long-time friend, Robert W. Bradshaw Jr.

Why Give?

The choice to make a financial gift to an institution can be highly personal, based on investment logic or family tradition, connection to an issue, gratitude for education or service, or any broad combination of these considerations.

Institutions such as the School of Government rely on gifts of every size and frequency in order to fulfill their missions.

The Vinroots' gift decision was layered. They wanted to do something for UNC-Chapel Hill, where they met as undergraduates. Richard attended college on a Morehead Scholarship, served as class president in his junior and senior years, and played basketball for Coach Dean Smith. He graduated in 1963 with a degree in business administration and earned a law degree in 1966. Judy graduated with a degree in education in 1965. She was a class officer and cheerleader. Their three children subsequently attended the University.

The Vinroots also wanted to honor their friend, and Richard's partner and mentor, Bob Bradshaw. When Richard graduated from UNC School of Law, he became

"the first UNC guy" to join Bradshaw's seven-person, Duke-populated law firm in Charlotte (the firm now has more than 100 attorneys). Bradshaw mentored Richard in his law practice, when he entered public life as a member of the Charlotte City Council, and when he served as mayor of Charlotte. Bradshaw also chaired Richard's campaign for governor of North Carolina in 1996.

"Bob Bradshaw spent many years encouraging good people to enter public service and then mentoring them once they did so," said Richard. "Judy and I can think of no better way to honor Bob than at the School of Government, where public service is the essence of the mission. It pays homage to Bob's involvement in government and how strongly he felt about good government."

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Coates Connection is published twice a year by the School of Government Foundation. The newsletter is also available at sog.unc.edu/giving/development-news.

To learn more about supporting the projects highlighted in *Coates Connection* or other work of the School of Government, contact Jen Willis, assistant dean for development, at jenwillis@sog.unc.edu or 919.966.4347.

NOTES FROM THE DEAN

The School has been blessed to have strong financial support from the North Carolina General Assembly throughout its history. However, to respond to the growing number of requests for assistance from public officials and to accomplish our mission for the state, we must supplement legislative funding with other sources of support.

Many people who believe in our mission have made wonderful gifts to support the School's work. For example, this issue of *Coates Connection* describes the generosity of Richard and Judy Vinroot. Their gift of \$1 million has created fellowships to support MPA students who are preparing to become public service leaders. Their gift also creates a distinguished professorship that will honor and support one of our leading faculty members. Richard and Judy believe strongly in the power of local government to make a positive difference in our communities, and they see the School as aligned perfectly in supporting cities and counties.

We are grateful for their vision and generosity and for their willingness to partner with the School in our work to improve the lives of all North Carolinians. The support that we receive through private philanthropy will make the difference between our ability to do good work and our ability to do *great* work.

My colleagues and I are grateful to Richard and Judy and to the many others who have contributed generously to support the work of our faculty and staff. I look forward to joining with other partners in the coming years as we expand to meet the ever-evolving needs of our state.



Michael Smith

MICHAEL R. SMITH, DEAN

In addition to faculty members' contact with local government professionals at every level through courses and advising, Dean Mike Smith reached out to more than 80 North Carolina municipal and county managers new to their jurisdictions in 2016 to offer the resources of the School. Nearly half were first-time managers and several were from out of state.

Fun FACT

Managers come well-prepared to lead their jurisdictions, most from strong public service backgrounds. Previous professions of first-time municipal and county managers who took office in 2016 include the following:

- Assistant Managers (the majority)
- Engineer
- Planning Professional
- Military
- Police
- Finance Officer

A PROFOUND IMPACT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Gift

The Vinroots' pledge of \$334,000 established the Robert W. Bradshaw Jr. Public Administration Fellowship, which fully funds tuition and expenses to attract the highest quality students to the School's Master of Public Administration program.

They also pledged \$666,000 to fund the Robert W. Bradshaw Jr. Distinguished Professorship. This endowment will support a School of Government faculty member who teaches, advises, and publishes in local and state government fields such as taxation, courts and criminal justice, health and human services, school law, and public employment. This year, this fund reached the amount needed to begin the next phase of planning for its use.

As with most UNC-Duke affiliations, this one is not without a certain bittersweet twist. "Bob Bradshaw was a committed Dukie, and there have been generations of Bradshaws 'over there,'" said Richard. "When we made this pledge, I loved telling him I had associated him with UNC forever."

Bradshaw passed away in January 2012, but his legacy will be perpetuated through School of Government faculty who teach and advise government officials every day and the graduate students who become public service leaders in North Carolina and throughout the country.

"The Vinroots are known for their support of good government and an ever-stronger North Carolina," said School of Government Dean Mike Smith. "This gift is clear evidence of their dedication."

TWO NEW FUNDS SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENT EDUCATION

The **JAMES B. BLACKBURN III MEMORIAL FUND** provides scholarship support to local government officials who enroll in the School's flagship *Municipal and County Administration* course or support for special operating needs of the program.

The **ELLIS HANKINS SCHOLARSHIP** supports municipal participants in the *Municipal and County Administration* course, increasing access for municipalities that may not have the financial ability to send a participant to this important and comprehensive program.

CHANCELLOR TAPS SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT FRIENDS FOR NEW PHILANTHROPIC COUNCIL

As UNC-Chapel Hill enters an eight-year, multi-billion dollar campaign, Chancellor Carol Folt has asked School of Government Foundation Board members Maurice Smith, president, Local Government Federal Credit Union; Dewitt "Mac" McCarley, partner/attorney, Parker Poe, Charlotte; and Richard T. "Stick" Williams, retired senior vice president, Duke Energy, to serve on the Chancellor's Philanthropic Council. The council is a group of volunteer leaders from North Carolina, across the country, and beyond the United States, who will serve on this roughly 70-member leadership committee.

It is an honor that three of the School's close friends have been invited to serve the larger University campaign, in which the School of Government will play a major role. They and other Foundation Board members are invaluable advisors and stewards to the School and will be critical to the success of the School's campaign over the next several years.



Maurice Smith



Dewitt "Mac" McCarley



Richard T. "Stick" Williams

NEW E-TRAINING MODULE: HOW TO READ A BILL

The School of Government has created a new e-learning module, "Exploring North Carolina's Legislative Process: How to Read a Bill," the first in a series of modules about the legislature. This interactive training explains what a bill is, including an overview of the different types of bills that might be introduced, the different components of a bill, how to understand what a bill is actually doing, how a bill can be changed, and how to find a bill and related law on the North Carolina General Assembly website.

"How to Read a Bill" was created by School faculty and staff members Aimee Wall, Christine Wunsche, Dave Brown, and Norma Houston, together with the IT team. It is available for free at sog.adobeconnect.com/legmods-readabill.



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LEGISLATIVE ORIENTATION AT THE SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT: AN ENDURING TRADITION

On January 4–5, 2017, the School of Government and members of the North Carolina Legislature celebrated 50 years of *New Member Orientation*. Since 1966, the School has offered this practical introduction to newly elected legislators on topics critical to their jobs. Information sessions are led by School faculty, NC General Assembly staff and members, and newly experienced sophomore legislators.

This year's 50th anniversary celebration also welcomed special guests UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor Carol Folt, UNC President Margaret Spellings, and former Institute of Government Director John Sanders.

The orientation following elections is one part of the long relationship the School of Government has enjoyed with the General Assembly. Since 1935, the School's Legislative Reporting Service has produced the *Daily Bulletin* and other publications to inform government officials and citizens about the status and content of North Carolina legislation.

For more information, visit lrs.sog.unc.edu.



UNC President Margaret Spellings addressed legislators at a 50th anniversary celebration of *New Member Orientation* at the School of Government on January 5, 2017.

Fun FACT

Which of the following professions were represented in the 1967 General Assembly?

- A. Mortician
- B. Retired Minister
- C. Homemaker
- D. Tobacconist
- E. Motel Operator
- F. All of the Above

Answer: F. All of the above

THE MORE THINGS CHANGE...

Professions represented in the 2017 General Assembly include the following:

- Funeral Director
- Minister
- Homemaker
- Farmer
- Marine Engineer
- Computer Analyst