

Mary Sue Coleman

Mary Sue Coleman, President of the University of Michigan, is among the most respected higher education leaders in America. She has a well-deserved reputation for progressive academic leadership in both fat years and lean, and her ability to move her institution and its many constituencies forward under diverse circumstances has been documented repeatedly.

President Coleman received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Carolina after completing her undergraduate education at Grinnell College. Her doctoral advisor here was the late Professor Mary Ellen Jones, former chair of our Department of Biochemistry and herself a towering intellectual presence on this campus. While on the faculty of the University of Kentucky from 1971 until 1990, Dr. Coleman developed an internationally recognized experimental research program in biochemistry. Her efforts to unravel the details of nucleic acid biosynthesis in both healthy and pathologic human cells were important in understanding leukemia and lymphoma progression. Her academic credentials are so strong that even today many scientists know her more for her research than for her administrative accomplishments.

After nearly twenty years at Kentucky, Dr. Coleman returned to Carolina as associate provost and dean of research (1990-92) and later vice chancellor for graduate studies and research (1992-93). Since then, her superb administrative skills have been employed as provost and vice president for academic affairs at the University of New Mexico (1993-95), and as president of the University of Iowa (1995-2002). She is now in her second year at Michigan.

Those who know her well speak of personality traits not always shared by persons with her array of responsibilities. She makes every person in her presence feel special, no matter what their place in an academic culture than can be quite hierarchical at times. Her integrity is unquestioned, and her vision clear. In brief, she displays in full measure the qualities that all institutions of higher education expect to find both in the members of their faculty and in their academic leaders. You might say, from Carolina's perspective, she was the one that got away!

President Coleman is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 1997 and is an active participant in the governance of the National Collegiate Athletics Association. It is with great pride that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill confers upon her this Distinguished Alumna Award.

Katherine Ann High

Katherine Ann High is a remarkable clinician and scientist whose research has made truly outstanding contributions both to biomedical research and to humanity. Following her undergraduate work at Harvard, Dr. High received her M.D. from Carolina in 1978. She completed her training in internal medicine here and then accepted a Fellowship in Hematology at Yale in the laboratory of Dr. Ed Benz. In 1985 she returned to Carolina as an assistant professor with appointments in Internal Medicine, Pathology, and Genetics. In 1992 Dr. High joined the faculty of the University of Pennsylvania, accepting a position at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where that institution's hemophilia-related activities are located. Her laboratory is based in the Division of Hematology within the Department of Pediatrics where her research group has flourished.

Dr. High has devoted her entire career to the study of the molecular basis of blood coagulation. She has emerged as a world leader in the molecular science of clotting factor gene regulation and protein expression. She is also at the forefront of those who are seeking to develop a treatment approach for hemophilia B using the strategy of human gene transfer. Dr. High's stature in the field is attested to by a wide variety of honors and appointments. She is the scientific co-chair of this year's meeting of the American Society of Hematology; she is an officer of the American Society of Gene Therapy; she is program director of a recently funded NIH program project grant on Gene Therapy for Hemophilia; she was selected Researcher of the Year by the National Hemophilia Foundation; and she was recently named as an investigator by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute.

Dr. High insisted on developing her own paradigm for translational research in gene therapy at a time when most other investigators followed a very different model. In a remarkably prescient move, she chose to collaborate with industry for the production of clinical grade vector and to engage the services of an independent contract research organization to monitor the administrative and regulatory aspects of her clinical trial. Thus, despite great pressure that is the way of life in the field of human gene therapy, Dr. High's work is above reproach and she has remained steadfastly focused on her long-term goals.

Dr. Katherine Ann High is hailed as a person with the highest scientific and clinical skills, one whose career accomplishments represent a model for the conduct of basic, translational, and clinical research. It is therefore with great pride and pleasure that the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill confers upon her this Distinguished Alumna Award.

Shirley Friedlander Weiss

In her thirty-four years of productive service, Shirley Friedlander Weiss, professor emerita of City and Regional Planning, amassed a superb record of contributions to the Carolina community, the State of North Carolina, and the nation. Following undergraduate studies at Douglass College, then the women's college of Rutgers University, she worked as a research and planning economist first with a New York consulting firm and then with the Maryland State Planning Commission. She enrolled in the master of regional planning program at Carolina in 1956, earned her M.R.P. degree in 1958, and joined the Carolina faculty in the same year. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from Duke in 1973. With Professor Stuart Chapin, Professor Weiss helped build the center for Urban and Regional Studies by working on the 1958 \$1.2 million urban studies grant funded by the Ford Foundation, one of the largest grants Carolina had attracted at that time. Her 1976 book, *New Town Development in the United States: Experiment in Private Entrepreneurship*, established her as the premier scholar of new towns. Her scholarly bibliography lists more than 50 books, monographs, and articles.

Although Professor Weiss taught graduate-level courses, she had a keen interest in undergraduate students. As head of the honors program in urban and regional studies, she mentored scores of students over the years, kindling their interest in urban development and especially central city redevelopment. She continues to communicate with former students who turn to her for advice and assistance.

Shirley Weiss' record of service to her profession and to Carolina is as impressive as it is extensive. She has held membership in twenty-four professional and honorary societies and played leadership roles in many. To mention but a few, she served as president of both the UNC and North Carolina chapters of the American Association of University Professors, as a founding member and later president of the Southern Regional Science Association, as a senior fellow of the Urban Land Institute, as acting director of the Women's Studies Program, as a member of the administrative board of WUNC radio, and as Carolina's faculty marshal—the first woman to hold that post.

In 1992 Professor Weiss and her husband, Professor Emeritus Charles Weiss, founded the Urban Livability Program in the Graduate School. This innovative program funds graduate fellowships, a resident scholar, essay competitions, and a special collection in the Chapin Planning Library. The Graduate School marked the 10th anniversary of the program in 2002 with a two-day program entitled Challenges for Cities in Times of Change. Shirley and Charles continue to benefit the departments of City and Regional Planning, Environmental Sciences and Engineering, Dramatic Art, and Music, as well as the Ackland Art Museum and WUNC Radio.

For those of us who have been often in this hall for the many musical evenings it has hosted, it seems odd to see Shirley and Charles here, on the stage. In the mind's eye they are there, in their favorite seats: first row, center aisle. There are few pleasures greater than honoring dear and faithful friends, and so it is with both pride and affection that Carolina presents to Shirley Friedlander Weiss this Distinguished Alumna Award.