Marjorie Bryan Buckley  
Doctor of Laws  

Marjorie Buckley is a former teacher, lifelong volunteer, and visionary philanthropist. A native of Goldsboro, N.C., Buckley graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Carolina in 1962 with an A.B. in Education. She began her career as a teacher in Raleigh and the American School in London and as a research assistant at the University of Melbourne, Australia, School of Education. Buckley led the effort in 1965-67 to establish the North Carolina Outward Bound School which has offices and base camps in Western North Carolina, the Outer Banks and Florida. It serves annually on average 2,000 students with life changing wilderness programs and 4,000 students with urban programs through a partnership with the Atlanta Public School System. It also provides courses designed for practicing teachers and, among its scholarship opportunities for students at Carolina, courses for students earning a Master of Education and an annual course for incoming student body leaders.

Buckley’s support was instrumental in founding the Carolina Center for Public Service. Dedicated in 1999, the Center focuses on public service initiatives throughout the University and fosters a service ethic and practice among our students, faculty, and staff. In honor of Buckley’s father, Robert Emmet Bryan Sr. (Class of 1926), the Center awards five Bryan Public Service Awards each year to recognize faculty, staff, and students for their public service work on behalf of the University. She has also established an endowment to support the center and its activities. Elsewhere on campus, Buckley has endowed the Joseph P. Archie, Jr. Eminent Professorship in Medicine, which focuses on autoimmune disease, and the Thomas James Distinguished Professorship Fund in Experiential Education. Buckley served on the Board of Visitors, the founding Board of Directors of the School of Education Foundation, the Carolina Bicentennial and Carolina First Campaign Steering Committees, and the founding executive committee of the Carolina Women’s Leadership Council. Her honors include the General Alumni Association’s Distinguished Service Medal (2004), the Board of Trustees’ William Richardson Davie Award (2005), St. Mary’s School Distinguished Alumnae Award (2010), the Governor of North Carolina’s Order of the Long Leaf Pine (2011), and the Kurt Hahn Award (1992), the highest form of recognition conferred by Outward Bound in the United States.

For her loyalty and service to her alma mater, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Marjorie Bryan Buckley the degree of Doctor of Laws honoris causa.