

## KAREN BRUTON

UNC-CHAPEL HILL DEGREE: B.A. MATHEMATICS 1971

Karen Bruton is the founder of Just Hope International, a public charity that has taken a non-traditional path to create sustainable economies in worldwide locations where traditional efforts have not been successful. In 1986 Bruton became the first female vice president of Duke Power/Mill-Power Supply Company, but left there in 1987 to become vice president and corporate controller of Franklin Industries in Nashville, Tennessee. Over the next few years, she became active in the Nashville Performing Arts Center, Kiwanis and the Brentwood Rotary Club. In 2007 Bruton left the corporate world to dedicate her life to making an impact that lasts, using a lifetime of acquired management skills. She focuses on impoverished areas in the world where the cycle of poverty has been especially cruel. Her approach is to provide a "hand up, not a hand out" by supporting sustainable projects, usually farming or service focused, that provide local villagers with jobs, knowledge, a chance for a sustained economy, improved self-esteem, and increased family values. For example, she acquired 100 acres near Bauya, Sierra Leone, where she placed a professional director on site, identified the best solutions and guidance for local needs, and eventually established a successful pineapple plantation that created over 50 jobs. Her organization has supported projects in Panama, Honduras, Ghana, Togo, Nicaragua, Malawi, South Africa, Peru, and Thailand. Most recently, Just Hope added a Survival Skills program, primarily for young girls who have been physically, sexually and mentally abused. These survival skill programs will provide the girls a real chance at lasting independence and stability in their lives. Bruton's honors include the 2014 Rotarian of the Year Award from her Rotary club and a Distinguished Alumni Award from Wake Forest University for humanitarian service.

## FLORENCE FEARRINGTON

UNC-CHAPEL HILL DEGREE: B.A. MATHEMATICS 1958

Florence Fearington has been described as one of Wall Street's most successful woman money managers. Her interest in business began as a child when her parents gave her a few shares of R.J. Reynolds and Carolina Power. In 1979 she founded her own money management firm, Florence Fearington, Inc., where she was CEO and portfolio manager. Fearington accomplished this in a culture that displayed a pervasive bias against open and equal career paths for women on Wall Street. In 1997 Fearington sold her firm to U.S. Trust, which allowed her time to pursue her passion for collecting rare books across several

very specialized topics. One such passion is rare, beautiful, and old books about seashells. Her collection in this area is thought to be one of the finest and most extensive in the world.

As a member of the Grolier Club, a private society of bibliophiles based in New York, Fearington organized an exhibition of her Wunderkammer catalogs called “Rooms of Wonder: From Wunderkammer to Museum, 1599-1899,” in early 2013. Those acquainted with her collection, and the meticulous approach she takes to organizing and presenting information, were not surprised by the outstanding attention and reviews the exhibition attracted. After it closed in New York Ms. Fearington loaned the exhibition for display in UNC’s Wilson Library, complemented by materials from our own rare book collection, from February to April of 2014.

## **ROSALIND FUSE-HALL, J.D.**

UNC-CHAPEL HILL DEGREE: B.S. ADMIN. CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
1980

A Georgia native, Rosalind Fuse-Hall was the 17th president of Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina. She grew up on the campus of Fayetteville State University where her father was on the faculty. Following her undergraduate education at Carolina, Fuse-Hall earned her Juris Doctor degree from Rutgers School of Law and studied at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education. She served as a staff attorney for the New York Regional Office of the Securities & Exchange Commission. Her first position in higher education was at St. Lawrence University, where she was assistant director for minority affairs. She served as chief of staff to the president of Florida A&M University. Additionally at FAMU, Fuse-Hall managed special programs to enhance institutional strengths and student outcomes, a \$10million operation. She has also served as executive assistant to the chancellor at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) and corporate secretary to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina. At NCCU, she was instrumental in establishing the Biomanufacturing Research Institute and Technology Enterprise Center for Excellence and developed a public-private partnership that built a residence hall. In 2004, Fuse-Hall traveled to Southeast Asia on an Eisenhower Fellowship. She is a member of Links, Inc., an international not-for-profit corporation with a membership of 12,000 professional women of color devoted to voluntary public service.

## **DR. SANFORD “SANDY” SHUGART**

UNC-CHAPEL HILL DEGREE: B.S. SCI. TEACHING 1978,  
M.A.T. 1983, PH.D. 1990

Sanford “Sandy” Shugart is president of Valencia College in Orlando, Florida, one of the nation’s largest community colleges. He began his career as chair of the science department of Cobb County Schools (Georgia), moved on to become at age 25 vice

president and chief academic officer of the North Carolina Community College System (1983-91), was named president of North Harris Community College in Houston (1991-99) and has led Valencia since 1999. Under Sanford's leadership, Valencia has become a national model for creating a culture of educational innovation. At Sanford's instigation, the college discovered that students' successful outcomes could be predicted by their success in their first five courses. So the college reworked its processes to include earlier advising and orientation, earlier application and admission deadlines, and predictable numbers of sections available. After a decade of these initiatives, graduation rates for college-ready and developmental students at Valencia doubled, gaps between students from different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds diminished, and the college was poised to achieve completion rates more typical of selective state universities. Valencia now has not only a significantly higher graduation rate than its peers; it boasts the nation's highest job placement rate at 95 percent and the most productive transfer program in the country. For its innovative approach to education and its outstanding performance as a result, Valencia received in 2011 the first Aspen Award for Community College Excellence from among 1,000 applicants. Sanford is also a thoughtful speaker and writer on the vocation of leadership and on the inner life, character, and dilemmas of an effective leader. His book, *Leadership in the Crucible of Work: Discovering the Interior Life of an Authentic Leader*, addresses such issues as creating a collaborative and shared decision process while still retaining the power and responsibility of decisiveness when necessary; dealing with the inevitability of failure; and using failures as opportunities for forgiveness and transformative learning rather than for blame and further damage to the individual and the institution.

## **PAULA BROWN STAFFORD**

UNC-CHAPEL HILL DEGREE: B.S. PUBLIC HEALTH 1986, M.P.H. 1992

Paula Brown Stafford is the former president of clinical development at Quintiles, the world's largest provider of biopharmaceutical development and commercial outsourcing services, a Fortune 500 company and one of Fortune magazine's "World's Most Admired Companies." Over her 30-year career with Quintiles, Stafford was directly involved in the successful development and regulatory approval of hundreds of life-changing drug therapies for patients both in North Carolina and throughout the entire world.

Joining Quintiles in 1985, Stafford was just the 23rd employee at the fledgling company which today, boasts more than 36,000 employees conducting business in 100 countries. As president of clinical development, her part of Quintiles' business generated nearly three-quarters of the company's \$4.3 billion in net revenue for 2015.

Stafford is a recognized leader in the field of biopharmaceutical development and was invited to provide expert testimony before a Congressional hearing on the topic of modernizing clinical trials in 2014. During that hearing, she provided recommendations and possible approaches in three key areas of drug development—patients, pathways and

processes—to accelerate the delivery of therapies to patients. A statement from her testimony summarizes the focus of her work: “Modernizing clinical trials is critical if we are to meet the goals we share of delivering medicines faster, at less cost, to patients who need them.”

Stafford’s impact in the ever-changing field of healthcare and pharmaceutical development became personal upon the completion of her first beginning-to-end clinical trial, in which she oversaw the development of a diabetes drug that has allowed her own grandmother to live well into her nineties by managing this chronic disease which affects roughly 30 million adults in the United States alone. While most would consider Stafford’s 30-years at Quintiles a rich and fulfilling professional journey, she has barely slowed down since her retirement at the end of 2015. Based on her three decades of leading a global organization, Stafford provides leadership consulting services to a wide variety of organizations seeking growth and success for their customers, their investors and their employees. Additionally, she works with her alma mater serving as an adjunct professor at UNC’s Gillings School of Public Health and is the immediate past president of the Public Health Foundation Board of Directors. Stafford also serves on the Board of Directors for Health Decisions, a Durham-based, full-service Contract Research Organization. She and her husband Greg have two children, 21-year old Cas and 17- year old Jack.