

2008 Distinguished Alumna/Alumnus Awards

William Joseph Bynum, Jr.

A.B., 1982

Bill Bynum, Class of 1982, is chief executive officer of ECD/HOPE (Enterprise Corporation of the Delta and Hope Community Credit Union). As chair of the Black Student Movement in his undergraduate years, Bynum worked to foster increased sensitivity to the needs of minority students, greater collaboration among student organizations, and improvements in recruitment and retention of Black students and faculty. After graduating, Bynum helped establish the Durham-based Self Help Credit Union, one of the nation's preeminent community development financial institutions. He went on to serve as director of programs at the North Carolina Rural Center where he designed and managed programs addressing development needs in rural and economically-distressed communities. In 1994 Bynum was recruited to Jackson, Mississippi, to start the Enterprise Corporation of the Delta, an effort to spur economic development in the delta regions of Arkansas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Today, ECD is among the nation's most respected community development financial institutions. In 1995, Bynum founded Hope Community Credit Union. In 2002, ECD assumed management of HOPE. After Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast in August, 2005, ECD/HOPE stepped in to extend services to people, businesses, and nonprofits affected by the storm and has become a model for success in undertakings that have been marked more often by failure. Bynum has advised President Clinton and President Bush on community development matters, chairs the Community Development Advisory Board, and serves on the boards of the Regions Bank Community Development corporation, the Foundation for the Mid-South, the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation, the William Winter Institute for Racial Reconciliation, and the Mississippi Access to Justice Commission. He is a Henry Crown Fellow of the Aspen Institute, and the recipient of several awards for community development work and entrepreneurship.

William Joseph Bynum, Jr., was nominated by Professor Hodding Carter III

Leah McCall Devlin

B.S., 1976; D.D.S., 1979; M.P.H., 1984

Leah Devlin earned her undergraduate degree at Carolina in 1976 and continued on here to receive a doctorate in dentistry and a master's degree in public health. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and the honor society of the School of Public Health. Devlin began her professional career at the Wake County Department of Health, where she served as director for ten years. She joined the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services in 1966 and became State Health Director in 2001. She is the first woman to have held that position. Devlin has served the Triangle community as a board member for Healthy Wake 2000, the North Carolina Museum of Natural Science, the Central Region board of Wachovia Bank, and the Community Advisory Board for WUNC Radio. She is also a member of the North Carolina Institute of Medicine, the Women's Forum of North Carolina, and the UNC School of Public Health Foundation Board. Devlin's honors include the 1994 Health Director of the Year presented by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Award, the North Carolina Public Health Association's Rankin Award, and the Poe Center for Health Education's President's Award. Devlin has been an outstanding advocate of public health and has been especially generous in offering her time and expertise to Carolina's School of Public Health.

Dr. Leah Devlin was nominated by Dean Barbara K. Rimer

Molly Wilmer Barker

A.B., 1982; M.S.W., 1989

Molly Barker is the founder of Girls on the Run International, a non-profit prevention program that teaches self-respect and healthy lifestyles to preteen girls. Over the last decade this program has grown to include over 100 councils serving 40,000 girls across the United States and Canada. Girls on the Run is a 12-week 24-lesson character building program ending with a non-competitive 5K race. The goals of the curriculum are to encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual and physical development. Barker designed the program as an outlet for young girls to address “Girl Box Issues,” which are restrictions placed on women that make them follow a particular path in order to be recognized and valued. The success of the program prompted Barker to write *Girls on Track: A Parent’s Guide to Inspiring Our Daughters to Achieve a Lifetime of Self-Esteem and Respect*. The book has been a best-seller, and was named a Best Parenting and Families book by Amazon.com. Barker was awarded the 2004 Charlotte Woman of the Year, the Enterprising Woman Magazine’s Advocacy Award, Pfeiffer University’s Servant Leadership Award, the School of Social Work’s 2002 Distinguished Alumni Award, and Parent Magazine’s Parent of the Month. She has been profiled in People magazine and the Carolina Alumni Review, and has appeared on Oprah Winfrey’s Hi Gorgeous! tour. Barker’s recent activities at Carolina include membership on the School of Social Work Board of Advisers and the 2006 key-note speaker at the Carolina Women’s Center Annual Meeting.

Molly Barker was nominated by Kristen Huffman, Assistant Director of Alumni Relations and the Annual Fund of the UNC School of Social Work.

Walter Lowry Caudill

B.S. Chem. 1979

Dr. Lowry Caudill is the retired, worldwide president of pharmaceutical development for Cardinal Health where he led a unit providing complete development services for the pharmaceutical industry at nine sites, including RTP, San Diego, Somerset New Jersey, Philadelphia, Manchester UK and Schorndorf Germany. Caudill and Dr. Alfred Childers co-founded Magellan Laboratories in 1991, a company later acquired by Cardinal Health. Magellan became one of the fastest growing, privately held companies in RTP and received many regional and national awards for growth and entrepreneurial development. Magellan was awarded the Triangle Business Journal’s Fast 50 award for nine years and was in the Top 10 for six of the nine years. In 1998 Caudill and Childers were named Entrepreneur of the Year for North and South Carolina by Ernst and Young, the Kauffman Foundation, USA Today, and NASDAQ and were finalists for the 1998 National Entrepreneur of the Year. Caudill did his undergraduate work at Carolina with undergraduate research under the direction of Professor Royce Murray. He received his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1983 under the direction of Professor Mark Wightman, now a member of the Carolina faculty. Upon graduation he became a research scientist at Baxter-Travenol and later joined the Glaxo Research Institute. Product lines that his groups helped develop include Zantac, Imitrex, Zofran, Zinacef, and Ventolin. Caudill is a steering committee member of the Carolina First Campaign and is chair of the Private Fundraising Steering Committee for the UNC-CH Physical Science Complex. He serves on the Chemistry Department’s External Advisory Board and on the Board of Advisors of the

Educational Foundation. He remains an active member of the American Chemical Society and the American Association of Pharmaceutical Sciences.

W. Lowry Caudill was nominated by Professors Royce W. Murray and R. Mark Wightman

Debra Wehrle Stewart
Ph.D., 1975

Debra Stewart is the fifth president of the Council of Graduate Schools. She came to that position in 2000 after serving as vice chancellor and dean of the graduate school at North Carolina State University. She has also served as interim chancellor at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro (1997). The Council of Graduate Schools is the leading organization dedicated to the improvement and advancement of graduate education. Its 453 members award over 95% of all U.S. doctorates and about 70% of all U.S. master's degrees. Its 21 international members include ten major Canadian universities. Stewart's service to graduate education includes chairing the Graduate Record Examination Board, the Council on Research Policy and Graduate Education, the Board of Directors of Oak Ridge Associated Universities, and the Board of Directors of the Council of Graduate Schools. Stewart's current board memberships include the National Research Council Board on Higher Education and the Work Force and the advisory board of the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate. During her twelve years of leadership positions in North Carolina Stewart worked to mobilize stakeholders inside and outside the university to advance university programs. She spearheaded a strategic plan for graduate education at N.C. State that created a framework for interdisciplinary curriculum, significantly enhanced financial support for graduate assistants, and solved a long-term program with tuition remissions. Stewart received her Ph.D. in political science from Carolina, her M.A. from the University of Maryland, and her A.B. from Marquette University where she majored in philosophy. She is the author or coauthor of numerous scholarly articles on administrative theory and public policy. Her disciplinary research focuses on ethics and managerial decision-making.

Debra Stewart was nominated by Dean Lynda Dykstra