

MARY DUKE BIDDLE TRENT SEMANS

Mary Duke Biddle Trent Semans, born to the founding family of Duke University, has long used her bright intelligence and endless energy in the support of good causes, especially in this State. A graduate of Duke University, she has notably combined the roles of wife, mother of seven children, and public servant extraordinary.

Mrs. Semans, often working with her husband Dr. James Semans, has given of her financial resources, but much more importantly, of herself, to a wide variety of educational, charitable, social, and cultural causes. She has served in the city government of Durham, once as mayor pro-tem, has been Trustee of a number of institutions of higher education, and with Dr. Semans, was one of the founders of the North Carolina School of the Arts. She has significantly contributed to programs for child care, the blind, and the underprivileged.

Once described as "an indomitable lady who puts her heart, her brains, and her money at the service of us all," this indefatigable worker well deserves our high praise. The University now recognizes her outstanding and effective service with this degree.