

C O M M E N C E M E N T

2007

G E O R G E T O W N   U N I V E R S I T Y

CATHERINE B. REYNOLDS  
DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS, HONORIS CAUSA



Today we celebrate a woman whose profound commitment to education, innovation, leadership, and service exemplifies the mission and vision of Georgetown University. She is a person who embodies all the qualities we hope to support and sustain in Georgetown University students during their time here and as they depart and continue making their own contributions locally, nationally, and globally.

Catherine B. Reynolds serves as the Chairman of the Catherine B. Reynolds Foundation, an organization whose purpose is "to help educate young people, to inspire them to believe in their power to make a difference as individuals, and to motivate them to reach their greatest potential as productive members of society." Mrs. Reynolds has taken a life of personal success and transformed it into a life of serving others.

She was recently selected by *Business Week* as one of the fifty most philanthropic living Americans, the first self-made woman to ever make the list. This tribute was bestowed to honor her generous contributions to the National Gallery of Art, the Kennedy Center for Performing Arts, Teach for America, Hurricane Katrina Scholarship Fund, the Reynolds Foundation Fellows for Social Entrepreneurship, and more than fifty other organizations supporting cultural and performing arts, the sciences, academics, and public policy.

In addition, Mrs. Reynolds is the Founder and Chairman of Loan to Learn, an Edu-Cap Education Loan Program committed to providing personal educational financing as a supplement to government student loan programs. Much like Georgetown University Founder, John Carroll, Mrs. Reynolds identified an educational need in society, discovered a way to fulfill that need, and created opportunities for numerous talented and deserving students. Through her initiative and ongoing dedication she has helped hundreds of thousands of students attain their dream of a college education.

Mrs. Reynolds herself is a prime example of the Georgetown philosophy to encourage its students and graduates to lead lives of leadership and service. Her entrepreneurial spirit embraces the founding principles of Georgetown University. In recognition of her outstanding achievements in business and education, her leadership and generosity in the community, and passionate commitment to inspire young individuals to make a difference, Georgetown University is proud to honor Catherine B. Reynolds by awarding her the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, *Honoris Causa*.