

## KATE BARANY'S RESPONSE FALL 1996

Thank you Chancellor Broski for your kind words. I am honored to receive this prestigious award and thank everybody who wrote in support of my nomination. I also thank everybody who worked with me on various projects over the past 2 decades that I have been at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

Today I have been named the Woman of the Year. Let me tell you some other names that I have been called.

My granddaughter, Deborah, who is in the audience, calls me Grandma Cake, because I like to bake and she likes to eat the cake.

Several years ago we both my husband and I were teaching the medical students. I started the course. The first week the students respectfully called me Dr. Barany. The second week my husband lectured. The third week I came back and then the students called me Mrs. Barany. I asked them "is this a promotion or a demotion?" The male students answered, "of course a promotion. Aren't you happy that you got a husband?" The female students answered "this is a demotion, you were stripped of your Dr. title, you have lost your identity, you became only an appendix to your husband".

In the eighties, I was an invited speaker at a Gordon Conference. I was given a badge which said Mrs. Michael Barany on it. I protested that I had registered as Dr. Kate Barany, but the person in charge interrupted by saying "You indicated that you wish to share a room with your husband Dr. Michael Barany". I argued until I got a badge with Dr. Kate Barany on it, and this started a new tradition at the Gordon Conference.

Some time ago, one of my former bosses called me "Champion of the ladies room". While I resented this, the truth of the matter is that I did complain a lot about the shortage of facilities for women and as a result of it, now we have enough of them.

Indeed, we are fortunate to have a Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women; this goes back for over two decades. Many problems were identified

and acted upon: such as the need for child care, to increase the number of women on the faculty, to deal with promotion during childbearing years, to guide students who are returning to school after raising a family, to prepare women for management positions, to remove inequalities in pension benefits between male and female employees, or to change policies that discriminate against women.

I find it noteworthy that today our University has a Center for Research on Women and Gender, we also have an Office of Women's Affairs.

There are many ways in which we can improve further the status of women at UIC. Individuals who have certain ideas about it, should share their ideas with members of the Chancellor's Committee, then a subcommittee can embrace the idea and work on it. There is no guarantee for success but we care, and will work hard, men and women together, to reach our goals.

As an example, I wish to mention that in 1991 we asked for a more flexible policy for the selection of Junior University Scholars to avoid penalizing women if their career development was slowed during their childbearing years. Within weeks Drs. David Broski and John Wanat responded positively to our request, and the number of female Junior University Scholars jumped.

By the way, since there are no men's committees, I am wondering who will fight for diaper-changing tables in the men's rooms at the airports? May be my grandson Michael, who is in the audience, will work on that project.

Finally, we all want to create a better life for the people of the University of Illinois at Chicago. I am proud to have been part of these efforts for many years, and in this spirit, I would like to recall my very first project as a member of the Chancellor's Committee, the establishment of Child Care Center at the Medical Center.

Pat Chronis, Director of Children's Center, please come forward. It is a great honor to follow you as a Woman of the Year. I would like to donate my award money to be used as you best see fit in support of child care.

Thank you very much.