

## Concluding Remarks

Darlene Ball, the first female chair of the Catawba College Board of Trustees and a 1962 alumna of the college, shared these summary comments and reading recommendations with those who attended the February 17<sup>th</sup> a panel discussion, "Developing Emerging Professionals: What You Need to Know to Succeed." Ball served as moderator of this event held in Tom Smith Auditorium on campus.

- **Take opportunities even if you feel you are not ready – even if it scares the heck out of you. Women tend to over prepare, over think and overly analyze and by then the opportunity is often gone. Jump in and do it.**
- **Project confidence and it will become a part of you.**
- **Be passionate about something.**
- **Watch your sensitivity – keep your back straight and separate your mind from your heart when you need to (southern lady and a no nonsense yankee).**
- **Don't blur the lines between personal and professional in the workplace.**
- **Have a mentor and be a mentor.**
- **Take time to invest in yourself – your health, your wealth and your happiness.**
- **Say "Yes" more often than you say "No". Push yourself out of your comfort zone.**
- **Be open to trying different career paths until you find the one that feels right.**
- **Think Global – if there is an opportunity to work outside of the U.S. grab it.**
- **Take ownership of your actions no matter what they are – " I DID THAT" is an empowering statement whether it is something good or wasn't so good at the time.**
- **Don't be afraid of failure – it's probably the greatest asset to learning.**
- **Be attentive to everyone around you. Valuable lessons can be learned from the administrative assistant, the secretary, even the lady who keeps the washroom clean or serves food in the cafeteria.**

- Don't just sit at the table – talk at the table – make it a point to contribute at least once in every meeting you attend.
- Save and give back – don't forget Catawba.
- You can't do it all!! Many of us have tried that and it can kill you – do your part but DELEGATE whether it is at the office or at home – It will make you stronger and those around you appreciate you more for your leadership skills.
- Negotiate for your rights – money, benefits, new positions etc.
- Keep track of your accomplishments – write them down and add them to your ever-changing resume.
- Never think of yourself as a woman first but as a competent and capable individual who can get the job done as well or better than anyone.

#### Concluding statement:

- The future is really bright – REALLY BRIGHT for every one of you.
- I want to quote Warren Buffet (not Jimmy Buffet of Margarettaville fame), Warren Buffet who is one of the richest men in the country. This is what he had to say recently and what was published in Forbes Magazine recently:
  - § “WOMEN ARE AN UNDER-VALUED RESOURCE WHO ARE KEY TO AMERICA'S PROSPERITY. America has forged this success while utilizing, in large part, only half of the country's talent.
  - § For most of our history, women – whatever their abilities- have been relegated to the sidelines.
  - § We've seen what can be accomplished when we use 50% of our human capacity. If you visualize what 100% can do you will join me as an unbridled optimist about America's future.”
- And on the sentimental side I have always loved what the Mother Superior in the “Sound of Music” said to Maria: Climb every Mountain, ford every stream, follow every rainbow till you find your dream.

Good Reads:

**Book: *Lean In* by Sheryl Sandberg, CEO of Facebook**

**Book: *The Best Advice I Ever Got: Lessons from Extraordinary Lives* by Katie Couric**

**Article: *Fortune Magazine*, February 24, 2014 issue, page 66-70. 50 Most Powerful Women - Global Edition**