

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal  
and  
Citation of Merit  
1993 Recipient**



**Katherine duPont Gahagan**

Three-time flier in the all-women's transcontinental air race, first woman trustee of the Taft School, and secretary of the corporation, you have provided a model for generations of Taft women in your extraordinary balance of traditional and contemporary values as you lead both your family and your society with your boundless energy and unwaning enthusiasm. You joined the board of trustees the same year that women students were first admitted to Taft; as much as anyone else, your vision for the school and example of grace and grit have shaped the coeducational Taft. Your family first brought you to the school and they continue to be the cornerstone of your life. A devoted mother of four sons, each of whom attended Taft, spending time with your family has always been a priority. You have broadened your concern and care for your own sons to include the welfare of many children, in your work on the boards of St. Andrew's School, Delaware's Children's Beach House, and Planned Parenthood. You have followed an exemplary tradition of public service in your work as a trustee of the Chichester duPont Foundation and the Brandywine Conservancy. Today we pay honor to you for your service to the people whose lives you have touched: your family; Taft students, faculty, trustees and parents; and the myriad of people who have benefited from your countless hours of dedicated work on their behalf. You truly exemplify Taft's motto, *Non Ut Sibi Ministretur Sed Ut Ministret*. For your life of service, we bestow upon you Taft's greatest honor, the Alumni Citation of Merit.