

## *About*

### **SUSAN BRYANT, *Dole Institute Fellow, Fall 2011***



Susan Bryant currently serves as chair of the Wake County, North Carolina Republican Party. Wake County (Raleigh and its suburbs) has the largest number of registered Republicans in the state.

She began her political career in Illinois while still a student at Knox College in Galesburg. She was the downstate headquarters manager in the 1970 campaign of Senator Ralph Tyler Smith, where one of the interns was Karl Rove. She served as press secretary and chief of staff for the late Congressman George M. O'Brien (R-IL) and then co-founded a media and management consulting firm, Bishop, Bryant and Associates, which was

credited with winning numerous Congressional races.

In 1981, she was named Political Director of the National Republican Senatorial Committee, where she oversaw 33 U.S. Senate races on behalf of the committee composed of all sitting Republican Senators. She then co-founded a second consulting company, Research/Strategy/Management, Inc., in partnership with renowned pollster Dr. Vince Breglio. At R/S/M, she was the consultant to many Senate and Congressional campaigns, including Sen. Pete Domenici (R-NM), Rep. David Camp (R-MI), now the ranking Republican on the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and Rep. Michael Flanagan, whose 1994 upset of the infamous Rep. Dan Rostenkowski ranks as one of the most notable campaigns ever. Additionally, she was an advisor to President Reagan's campaign in 1984 working on the Gender Gap. In 2002, she joined the Bush administration and became Director of Communications of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, where she led many innovations including the first ever television advertising for recruitment of government workers.

Susan has taught at Yale University, Harvard University, and American University as well as making numerous national media appearances.

Susan and her husband, author and media consultant Jay Bryant, settled in Wake Forest, NC following her retirement from Federal service.