

Darla Moore

A native South Carolinian, Darla Moore was born in Lake City, amidst the family cotton, soybean and tobacco farm, the oldest daughter of Eugene and Lorraine Moore. Darla has a younger sister, Lisa.

From an early age, Darla possessed a desire for activity beyond the norm for young girls and her parents encouraged this, particularly her Dad, who, in addition to working the farm, was also a school teacher, principal, and coach.

Darla received a BA in Political Science from University of South Carolina and an MBA from George Washington University.

She began her career in corporate banking. Darla gained success in banking, and as a result of her success, garnered profiles in leading industry magazines such as Forbes, Fortune, Working Woman, Worth, Wall Street Journal, and on CNN. She rose to managing director of Chemical Bank before accepting a similar position at Manufacturers Hanover Bank.

Darla then met and married successful investor Richard Rainwater. She ultimately was named President of Rainwater Investments.

Her success in the banking and investment industries became legendary and led her to positions on numerous corporate, educational, and philanthropic boards. Included in these are Magellan Health Services, Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia, MPS Group, SC Governor's Commission on Teacher Quality, The Chamber of Commerce Excellence in Education Business Advisory Council, New York University School of Medicine Foundation, George Washington University, University of South Carolina Trustees, and Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center.

In 2002, Darla founded the nonprofit Palmetto Institute, a nonprofit think tank aimed at bolstering per capita income in South Carolina by focusing on education.

In 2003, she donated \$10 million to Clemson University's School of Education, which was renamed the Eugene T. Moore School of Education in honor of her father.

With such an illustrious career, Darla has received numerous accolades. She was the first woman featured on the cover of Fortune and was also named to the Fortune list of top 50 most powerful women in American business. In 1998, she was awarded the highest civilian honor for a South Carolinian, the Order of the Palmetto. Earlier this year in 2007, Darla was inducted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame.

Darla Moore has pursued her personal ambitions with remarkable zeal. She said as she stood before the University of South Carolina Class of 2006 that she was determined that growing up in rural South Carolina would not keep her from accomplishing her goals.

The people of South Carolina are proud of what she has accomplished and are thankful that she continues her pursuits on behalf of the Palmetto State.