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MEDIA ALERT March 2006

WHO: **DR. HELENE GAYLE, Barnard Class of '76**, pediatrician and public health physician, **President and CEO of CARE USA** – the first woman and first person of color to lead the organization in its 60-year history.

WHAT: **2006 BARNARD DISTINGUISHED WOMEN IN SCIENCE LECTURE:**
Dr. Helene Gayle '76, an internationally recognized expert in the fight against HIV/AIDS, returns to campus one week into her new job as president and CEO of the international poverty fighting organization CARE USA; earlier in her career, she spent five years at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and 20 years at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. **Dr. Gayle will discuss the latest developments around women and HIV/AIDS, her vision for CARE in the 21st century, and what inspired her to become a doctor and go into public health.**

WHEN: **TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 2006, 6:00 P.M.**

WHERE: Barnard Hall, Room 304, Julius S. Held Lecture Hall,
Broadway and West 117th Street, NYC (1 train to 116th Street/Columbia University).

HOW: **FREE, Open to the Public, Reservations Required:** bcrw@barnard.edu, 212-854-2067.

WHY: *"I went to medical school because my real passion is social justice and how you can address inequities. If you look at some of the great inequities in life, they are health inequities."* –Gayle

Facts from CARE's new "I Am Powerful" campaign on global women and poverty issues:

- Women and girls make up 75 percent of the poorest people in the world today.
- Women produce half the world's food, but own only one percent of its farmland.
- Each year, more than 500,000 women – at least one every minute – die from pregnancy-related causes.
- One in three children in the developing world will likely die from a preventable disease like diarrhea.
- Young women, who carry the double burden of dire poverty and gender discrimination, now account for 76 percent of African youth living with HIV/AIDS.
- Of 876 million illiterate adults in the developing world, two-thirds are women.
- 150 million children are not in primary school; 60 percent are girls. The longer a girl stays in school, the higher her family income as an adult, and fewer and healthier children she'll have.

CO-PRESENTED BY:

The Hughes Science Pipeline Project (HSPP) at Barnard [www.barnard.edu/hssp], founded in 1991 and directed by Ann Whitney Olin Professor of Biology Paul E. Hertz, pairs undergraduate Student Research Interns with individual Faculty Research Mentors who guide them in yearlong research projects which the Interns then present at the annual Student Research Symposium. Generously funded by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, half of HSPP Student Research Interns go on to graduate school, one-third pursue medical degrees, one-quarter publish articles related to their research, and 15 percent pursue doctorates in science.

The Barnard Center for Research on Women [www.barnard.edu/bcrw], the first center of its kind when founded by feminist scholars in 1971, is directed by Women's Studies Professor Janet Jakobsen. It brings together academics and activists for provocative programs on social justice, featuring pioneers like Lani Guinier, Sister Helen Prejean, and Anna Deavere Smith. On April 8th, 2006 the Center will present its 31st annual Scholar & Feminist Conference, this year focusing on women and prison (see website for details).

HOST:

Barnard College [www.barnard.edu] is unique in all of higher education. A small, independent liberal arts college for women in New York City, Barnard offers students close mentoring by teacher-scholars and the intimacy of a small residential campus community; through its historic partnership with Columbia University, students can also access the resources of a major Ivy League research university. Ever since Barnard opened its doors as New York's first secular college for women in 1889, the college has been challenging young women to think boldly about the world and their role in changing it. Named one of the top 50 "science-active" liberal arts colleges in the U.S. by *The Scientist* magazine, and ranked third in the number of graduates who go on to earn Ph.D.s (among 1,000 liberal arts colleges nationwide), Barnard has produced nine MacArthur "Genius" Fellows – more than any other college.

PARTNERING ORGANIZATION:

CARE [www.care.org] is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. CARE places special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. Women are at the heart of CARE's community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of HIV, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources. CARE also delivers emergency aid to survivors of war and natural disasters, and helps people rebuild their lives.

BIOGRAPHY:

Dr. Helene Gayle, Barnard Class of '76

Dr. Gayle grew up in Buffalo, N.Y., the third of five children; her mother Marietta was a social worker and her father Jacob had his own small businesses. Her parents impressed upon her their belief that working to improve the world was one of the greatest things an individual could do; she was also strongly influenced by social issues of her youth, including civil rights, women's rights, anti-apartheid and Vietnam.

With a scholarship, Gayle was able to attend Barnard College, where she was active in student government and president of the Barnard Organization for Black Women. She decided to pursue a career in medicine because it was a tangible tool to make a difference in people's lives and address social inequity. While in medical school, she attended a lecture by Dr. D.A. Henderson, who spoke about the worldwide effort to eradicate smallpox, a deadly virus that had devastated the human population until the initiation of the World Health Organization's massive global vaccination campaign. That speech spurred Gayle's decision to pursue post-graduate studies in public health. Ultimately, she received her B.A. from Barnard, her M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania, and her M.P.H. from Johns Hopkins University.

After an internship and residency at Children's Hospital National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., Gayle entered the Center for Disease Control's epidemiology training program in 1984, and spent much of her 17-year career there working on issues related to the AIDS virus; she rose through the ranks to become director of the National Center for HIV, STD and TB Prevention and Assistant Surgeon General.

In the early 1990s, on loan from CDC, Gayle led the U.S. Agency for International Development's global HIV/AIDS efforts, combining her commitment to public health service with an opportunity to further examine the impact of the disease worldwide. She has since consulted to international agencies including UNAIDS, UNICEF, the World Bank and World Health Organization, worked extensively in Africa, Asia and the Americas, and made it her mission to develop programs to help slow the spread of HIV worldwide.

In 2001, Gayle joined the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation as director of HIV, TB and Reproductive Health, expanding support for HIV and TB prevention, treatment and research programs and developing a strategy to improve global access to reproductive health. In April 2006, she moves to CARE USA as president and CEO, the first woman and first person of color to lead the organization in its 60-year history.

Gayle continues to serve as co-chair of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise (an alliance dedicated to accelerating HIV/AIDS vaccine research), co-chair of the Global HIV Prevention Working Group (an international panel of HIV/AIDS experts), and President of the International AIDS Society. She also serves on the boards of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, the Institute of Medicine, the Council of Foreign Relations, and the American Museum of Natural History.