



In Memory of Sadie C. Bragg

by Susan S. Wood

On October 31, 2018, AMATYC lost an outstanding leader: Sadie C. Bragg. Sadie was born in Petersburg, VA, and graduated from Virginia State University. She earned a Doctorate in Education from Teachers College, Columbia University, and joined the faculty of Borough of Manhattan CC (BMCC) in 1982. Following her years as a popular and respected professor, Sadie joined BMCC's administrative team and retired in 2014 as provost and senior vice president of academic affairs.

Sadie's AMATYC history is long and storied. She joined AMATYC in 1974, first learning of AMATYC through her affiliate, NYSMATYC. Among her AMATYC roles were chair of the Equal Opportunity Committee and co-director of two major initiatives: *Beyond Crossroads* and Project ACCCESS. After serving as NYSMATYC President, she served as AMATYC northeast regional vice president in 1994-1995 and AMATYC president in 1998-1999. Her awards include the 2010 Mathematics Excellence Award and the Outstanding Alumna Award from the Teachers College Department of Mathematics, Science, and Technology. Sadie



was a textbook author of pre-college texts as well as a college textbook series co-authored with BMCC colleague Geoffrey Akst. Sadie proudly served as a member of the U.S. National Commission on Mathematics Instruction of the National Academy of Sciences and represented AMATYC at International Congresses on Mathematical Education around the world.

Sadie was a cherished mentor to many faculty over the years. For me, serving as president-elect during Sadie's presidency was an excellent training ground. Sadie told me years ago that I was destined to be an administrator. Her prophecy was fulfilled as I later assumed a statewide academic leadership role after decades as a mathematics faculty member.

Sadie's lovely smile and infectious laugh are what some remember most. She was a fierce friend and family meant everything to her. In 1967, she married her high school sweetheart Alvin and later became mother of Alvin, Jr., and later still, grandmother of Maya and Mark. Sadie was a hard worker, a perfectionist, a person of utmost integrity, a great leader, and a generous contributor to AMATYC. She was passionate about the community college mission. On the day she learned that she was going to be AMATYC president, co-workers purchased a gold cardboard crown for her. She wore it proudly throughout the day. Some former colleagues report that she could play and dance as hard as she worked!



Sadie sitting with a group of Project ACCCESS Cohort 1 Fellows (2005)

At Sadie's retirement party, I observed: "Sadie has made possible what seemed impossible, she has bridged canyons and chasms by creating pathways leading to student, faculty, and institutional success." Family, friends, and faith were supremely important to Sadie; she triumphed with grace from above as she met life's challenges. A fellow past president said, "Sadie figures in many of my best memories of AMATYC." Sadie will not be forgotten - memories of her and her indelible legacy will live on in the many lives she touched.

(An interview with past president Sadie Bragg can be found on the AMATYC website at www.amatyc.org/PastPresident.)

