

1st Population Center director at UNC dies

UNC News Services

CHAPEL HILL — Dr. Moye W. Freymann, professor of health policy and administration emeritus and first director of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, died March 30 in Chapel Hill. He was 70.

Dr. Freymann, a School of Public Health faculty member from 1966 until 1995, was known worldwide for teaching and research on population policy and related topics. His work in the United States stressed development of better measurement methods to help solve population problems.

When UNC opened the Carolina Population Center in 1966, the focus was on a broad interdisciplinary approach to research, training and public service activities. That method set UNC's center apart from other centers.

Today, 47 faculty fellows from 17 departments work on research spanning the United States and the world. Recent studies examined such topics as adolescent health in the United States, social change in Russia and interaction between population processes and the environment in Thailand.

"Moye Freymann created one of the world's leading population studies centers," said Dr. C. Arden Miller, former vice chancellor for health sciences and professor of maternal and child health at UNC.

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DR. C. ARDEN MILLER
FORMER UNC VICE CHANCELLOR
FOR HEALTH SCIENCES

"He did it by stimulating and nurturing scholars in all sectors of the university and by helping to link their scholarship to the pressing issues of population growth, not only in North Carolina, but on every continent," Dr. Miller said. "His stewardship of the population center stands as a model for multidisciplinary endeavor on this and many other campuses."

Added current center director Dr. Ronald Rindfuss, "His legacy is a population research and training center widely recognized as one of the most intellectually diverse and relevant in the world."

Dr. Craig Calhoun, dean of UNC's Graduate School, said no professor was more dedicated to graduate students. "Moye Freymann was an inspiration to literally hundreds of students from all over the world," he said. "Through them, as well as through his own work, he helped to change the entire field of population policy."

Dr. H. Garland Hershey, vice chancellor for health affairs, called Dr. Freymann "an innovative and original thinker."

"In particular, his ties to the international community brought outstanding scholars and programs to Chapel Hill and enhanced university exposure around the world," Dr. Hershey said.

After stepping down as center director in 1974, Dr. Freymann continued as a center fellow and a professor. He also co-chaired an international health committee in the School of Public Health and worked closely with the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, the U.S. Agency for International Development, the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the World Bank.

He spent 1981 to 1982 as a visiting scientist at the Batelle Memorial Institute's International Development Study Center in Washington, D.C.

In 1971, Dr. Freymann served as special assistant to the assistant secretary for health and scientific affairs in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare to help develop a national population affairs office. He also was chief consultant on health and population to the Ford Foundation in New Delhi, India, from 1957 to 1966.

A native of Omaha, Neb., Dr. Freymann graduated from Yale University, attended the two-year medical program at Dartmouth University and earned a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1948.

He received international training in the U.S. Public Health Service and served four years as co-director of three health departments in Iran's public health cooperative organization. He went on to receive a doctoral degree in public health from Harvard University in 1960.

A diplomat of the American Board of Preventive Medicine, he served on the boards of directors of the National Council for International Health, the Institute for Development Training, Planned Parenthood-World Population and the Society for the Study of Social Biology. He was a member of the Cosmos Club and wrote numerous papers and articles on family planning, population and public health.

Dr. Freymann is survived by his wife, Katherine C. Freymann, of Chapel Hill; three sons, Dr. Douglas M. Freymann of San Francisco, John B. Freymann of Washington, D.C., and Gordon R. Freymann of Columbus, Ga.; two brothers, Dr. John G. Freymann of Avon, Conn., and Jarvis M. Freymann of Scituate, Mass.; and his mother-in-law, Katharine K. Cantwell of Chapel Hill.

The family plans a memorial service later in April. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that memorials be made to the Moye Wicks Freymann Fund, which will support student trainees from developing countries, at the Carolina Population Center, Fifth Floor University Square East 300A, Campus Box No. 8120, Chapel Hill 27599-8120.