Carolina Population Center

In 1966, the Carolina Population Center was founded at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. To celebrate its 40th anniversary in 2006, a project was conducted to document the history of the Center. This transcript is an excerpt from an oral history interview.

Interviewee: Dick Udry
Interview conducted by: Grace Camblos
Interview date: October 11, 2005

Dick Udry was CPC Demographic Research Unit Director from 1973 – 1977, CPC Director from 1977 – 1992, and has been a CPC Fellow since 1992.

GC: Could you give me the lay of the land of what CPC was like during those early years when it was first starting out?

DU: Well, by the time it got moved over into here, it takes on some kind of a visible life at about that point. And it had its life rather independent of the University. Moye Freymann brought in a whole group of people, maybe 10 of them, from outside the University, and appointed them directors of this, that, and the other thing. So most of them had offices in this building, and most of them began directing activities of the Pop. Center.

GC: What were those activities?

DU: Aside from the Thai operation, which was subsequently funded by the Rockefeller Foundation for several years, it mostly involved taking charge of technical assistance operations in various parts of the world at the request of USAID, and with their support. I used to say that there was never a time at which some member of the Carolina Population Center wasn’t flying on an airplane to some foreign country - that we always had somebody going somewhere internationally. If you were in an airport in London, or in New Delhi, or Bangkok, and you’d be walking down the hall in the hotel, you’d meet somebody from the Carolina Population Center.