

A Glimpse at the Past

A Pictorial History of the Department of Epidemiology

**School of Public Health
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Created by Sue Wolf

for a celebration honoring the distinguished careers of

Professors Berton H. Kaplan

Carl M. Shy

and

H.A (Al) Tyroler

September 18th , 1996

Narrated by Dr. Marilyn Vine

Slide 1 (Title page)

Slides 2, 3, 4, 5 (University Campus)

When the bell tower rang on the 28th day of March 1936, fifty-one students (# 3) were registered for the new Division of Public Health in the Medical School at UNC-CH. (# 4) Sanitary engineers and health officers were the members of the first student body of what is today, (# 5) The School of Public Health.

Slide 6 (Caldwell Hall)

The new Division was housed in Caldwell Hall, on Cameron Avenue, which was the location of the Medical School.

Slide 7 (Wilson Library)

Wilson Library was the main library on campus.

Slide 8 (Dr. Rosenau)

Dr. Milton Rosenau came to Chapel Hill to head up the new division of Public Health. Course offerings included public health administration, vital statistics, and principles of sanitation. But as one student proclaimed " the big course was Epidemiology with Dr. Rosenau. The big book he had written was thicker than the Sears and Roebuck catalogue. (It) was the whole story on everything to do with communicable diseases."

Slide 9 (MacNider Hall)

The academic year, 1939-40, brought, two significant changes. In September, the Division of Public Health moved to the new Medical School building, MacNider Hall, alleviating space problems, at least for the time being. However, Dr. Rosenau and Dr. MacNider, then dean of the Medical School, had disagreements over the autonomy of the Division. Dr. Rosenau petitioned Dr. Frank Porter Graham, then president of the University of North Carolina, to create a separate school. In the spring of 1940, the University Board of Trustees granted his petition and the School of Public Health was officially born.

The School of Public Health grew throughout the next decade. Epidemiology continued to be taught by Dr. Rosenau and then by Dr. Edward McGavran who succeeded him as Dean and Head of Epidemiology in 1946.

Slide 10 (Dr. McGavran)

While other departments within the school were added and growing, Epidemiology was still a one man show. Dr. McGavran, wearing two hats, one as Dean and the other as Head of Epidemiology, shared an office with his secretary and administrative assistant. He taught 16 hours of Epidemiology in the winter quarter in addition to his administrative duties. Recognizing the need for additional faculty, Dr. McGavran wrote in the 1953-54 annual report that "the department which should be the strongest is actually the weakest".

Slide 11 (Dr. Cassel)

The situation was remedied in 1954 when Dr. McGavran hired Dr. John Cassel, a native of South Africa, to start a chronic disease section. In 1958, Dr. Sidney Kark, also from South Africa, was persuaded to serve a year's term as the first chair of the Department of Epidemiology.

Slide 12 (SPH Faculty)

The entire SPH Faculty was not very large during the 1950's but it grew as funds became available for positions and new projects.

Slide 13 (EPID Faculty)

Dr. Cassel (top center) assumed the position of chair of the department in 1959. He hired faculty from a broad range of disciplines reflecting his philosophy of the importance of the social and psychological as well as the biological determinants of health and disease. Among the early faculty members hired were:

Starting clockwise at the lower left:

Dr. Cecil Slome, a physician;
Dr. John Fulton , a dentist;
Dr. Ralph Patrick, an anthropologist;
Dr. David Jenkins, a psychologist;
Dr. Berton Kaplan, a sociologist - looking very pensive

And the one in the center? A young, beardless, Dr. Al Tyroler.

Slides 14, 15 (Miller Hall)

More staff meant a need for more space. By the early 1960's, the School had overflowed its borders in MacNider Hall and expanded into offices in Miller Hall on Pittsboro Street.

Slide 16 (Students)

The number of Epidemiology majors during the 1960-61 school year was not overwhelming.

Slide 17 (EPID Faculty)

In fact, the students appear to be outnumbered by the faculty.

Slide 18 (SPH Faculty)

The School of Public Health itself had grown considerably by the end of the 1950's. (Pause).....

Slide 19 (Dr. Cassel teaching)

Like Dr. Rosenau before him, Dr. Cassel was well known for his excellence as a teacher. His lectures, particularly his famous "Snow on Cholera" lecture, was very popular with students.

Slide 20 (Dean Mayes)

In the early 1960's, two major changes occurred in the SPH. First, Dr. Fred Mayes succeeded Dr. McGavran as the third Dean of the SPH.

Slides 21, 22 (SPH)

And second, Roseau Hall was dedicated in 1963. The SPH had finally found its own home on the UNC campus. (#22)

Now, as we all know, research is the mainstay of Epidemiology. And in the early 1960's, Dr. Cassel and Dr. Bernard Greenberg of the Dept. of Biostatistics did not miss a golden opportunity to study heart disease in a community setting.

Slide 23 (Dr. Curtis Hames)

Dr. Curtis Hames, a family physician from Claxton, Georgia observed that among his patients in rural Evans County, black patients appeared to have lower rates of coronary heart disease than whites. The department formed a partnership with Dr. Hames and The Evans County Heart Study took off from there. It was the basis for continuing studies of CHD by this department.

Slide 24 (Students 64-65)

In the academic year 1964-65, the number of students majoring in Epidemiology tripled from the beginning of the decade. You might recognize adjunct faculty member, Dr. Joan Cornoni-Huntley among the returning students.

Slide 25 (Partial faculty- Spring 1965)

This photo, taken in the Spring of 1965 by the side door of Rosenau Hall, includes two familiar faces --- Al Tyroler in the middle of the back row and Dr. Ralph Patrick to his left.

Slide 26 (Ralph Patrick)

Dr. Ralph Patrick joined the faculty in 1958. An anthropologist by training, Dr. Patrick used his background to study the Epidemiology of polio vaccine acceptance in a Florida county.

Slide 27 (Joanna Smith and student)

Along with Dr. Cassel and staff member, Joanna Smith, Dr. Patrick also conducted a study of the effects of rapid cultural change on health among inhabitants of Ponape Island in the Pacific. Joanna is shown here with doctoral student, Jane Gordon.

Slides 28 (OHSG Sign)

A big project launched in the early 1970's was an occupational health study of workers in the rubber industry. The Occupational Health Studies Group was formed from faculty in Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Environmental Sciences.

Slide 29 (Nationsbank Building)

Their offices were located in suite 32 of the Nationsbank Building.

Slide 30 (OHSG-investigators)

Here, Drs' Tony McMichael and Larry Kupper discuss the analysis of one of the rubber worker studies. When the rubber industry studies were completed, the Occupational Health Studies Group undertook a similar study of workers in the phosphate industry.

Slide 31 (Andjelcovich)

Dr. Dragana Andjelcovich was also a key investigator in the Occupational Health Studies Group.

Slide 32 (Tyroler)

And for those of you who thought that Dr. Tyroler limited his work to cardiovascular disease, think again. Here he is presenting data from the rubber industry studies at a meeting in Milan, Italy in May of 1979.

Slide 33 (Bert Kaplan)

Bert Kaplan joined the faculty in 1960. His passion has always been psychosocial Epidemiology and he has devoted himself to such studies as the relationship between religion and coronary heart disease. Even today, the Carolina Seminar that Bert chairs on "Forgiveness" is indicative of his long-standing interest in this field.

Slide 34 (Kaplan and student)

In this slide, Bert is shown with Kathy Dunn, a doctoral student in Epidemiology.

Slide 35 (Tyroler and Hames)

Work on the Evans County Study continued well into the 1970's. Here Dr. Tyroler is seen with Dr. Hames at one of the many Evans County Heart Days -- days set aside for meetings, discussions and presentations of Evans County data.

Slide 36 (LRC Program- Grizzle and Tyroler)

Following in the wake of the Evans County Heart Study was The Lipids Research Clinics Program (LRC for short), another large study of cardiovascular disease. This study was conducted at 14 sites in the US and abroad. Here Dr. Tyroler and Dr. Jim Grizzle of the Dept. of Biostatistics are shown discussing the project.

Slide 37(LRC #2)

Here Gerardo Heiss and Dale Williams of Biostatistics meet with other members of the research team.

Slide 38 (LRC #3)

Gerardo and Al meet with Ed Davis, another LRC team member from Biostatistics.

Slide 39 (LRC #4)

Dr. Tyroler is presenting the findings of the Lipids Research Study in Russia.

Slide 40 (LRC #5)

.....and again at a national news conference in Chapel Hill during the early 1980's.

Slide 41 (LRC #6)

Phyllis Johnson, longtime administrative assistant to the CVD group, is shown with staff member, Mary Nettles. If you want to get an idea of how long ago this photo was taken, Phyllis was expecting her son Matthew who turned 17 in 1996.

Slide 42 (Dr. Hulka)

During the 1970's the department pioneered in a new wave of health services research. Dr. Barbara Hulka was lead investigator of a study of the quality of care delivered by family physicians.

Slide 43 (Ed Wagner)

Ed Wagner, a former faculty member and a current Clinical Professor of Epidemiology, and Dr. Michel Ibrahim spearheaded a similar study of family nurse practitioners.

Slide 44 (Sue Wolf)

Sue Wolf joined the staff in 1972 as a research associate to serve as coordinator of the Family Nurse Practitioner Project.

Slide 45 (Dr. Ibrahim with staff)

Here Dr. Ibrahim, who had joined the faculty of Epidemiology in 1971, is shown with health services research staff members, Nancy Clapp and Janet Meininger.

Slides 46, 47 (Messy offices)

Only ten years after the doors of Rosenau Hall opened, we had outgrown our space. Office desks were cluttered with papers and **(#47)** bookcases were crowded with journal articles, computer printouts and course materials.

Slides 48, 49 (Credit Union)

To ease the overcrowding, the Department moved research staff into the second floor of the State Employees Credit Union Building on Pittsboro Street. **(#49)** These digs were so luxurious, in other words, they had carpeting and didn't have cinder block walls, that the offices were referred to as "The Palace".

Pause

Slide 50 (Greenberg)

Two major changes in command occurred during the 1970's. In 1972, Dr. Bernard Greenberg stepped aside as chair of Biostatistics to become the fourth Dean of the SPH.

Slide 51 (Ibrahim)

And in 1976, Dr. Michel Ibrahim was appointed chair of Epidemiology when Dr. Cassel stepped down due to illness.

Read: The following slides depict life in the department during the late 1970's.

Slide 52 (Vi Krall)

First we see, Vi Krall, the director of the fiscal office, talking to Dr. Caroline Becker, a former faculty member, and staff member, Sylvia Hubbard.

Slide 53 (Dave Kleinbaum)

Dave Kleinbaum, a statistician, with a joint appointment in BIOS and EPID is seen here teaching a class on linear regression....

Slide 54 (Tim Wilcosky)

Adjunct faculty member, Tim Wilcosky, during his student days...

Slide 55 (Becker and Andjelcovich)

Drs. Caroline Becker and Dragana Andjelcovich at the School of Public Health Convocation in 1979...

Slide 56 (Students)

And here, doctoral students, Jerome Wilson and Diane Cookfair, at the orientation week reception in the Epidemiology conference room with Dr. Carl Shy looking on...

Pause

Slide 57 (Dr. Carl Shy)

Dr. Carl Shy came to UNC from the EPA in 1974 to become the director of the Institute for Environmental Studies and also Professor of Epidemiology.

Slide 58 (Brown House)

He worked in the Brown House behind the School of Public Health. The house has since been torn down to make room for the new School of Social Work.

Slide 59 (Betsy Seagroves)

Betsy Seagroves joined Dr. Shy's staff as a secretary, also in 1974.

Slide 60 (Shy, Love and Checkoway)

Harvey Checkoway and Bud Love are seen here with Carl Shy reviewing the findings of one of their studies of occupational and environmental Epidemiology.

Slides 61

Lastly, we see Vic Schoenbach, who originally came to department as a student, posed with Bert Kaplan.

Slide 62 (Trailers- Cameron Avenue)

After being evicted from the Credit Union Building in the late 1970's and still in need of space, the research staff and several faculty members moved to a trailer complex near the UNC power plant on Cameron Avenue. "The Trailers" were not as luxurious as "The Palace" but because of the camaraderie of faculty and staff, it was a very fine working environment. Perhaps you recognize Betsy Seagroves and Terry Hudgins in this picture.

Slide 63 (Ginger)

The staff quickly adopted a cat, who was inhabiting the trailers when they arrived. After an intense review of the literature on feline nomenclature, she was named "Ginger".

Slide 64 (Slome)

Cecil Slome came to UNC from South Africa in the late 1950's. His research interests were concerned with hypertension and diabetes particularly medication-taking behaviors. At this time he was working on a study of hypertension control in Edgecombe County, NC with research staff housed in the "trailers".

Slide 65 (Fletcher)

Jim Fletcher, the department's second computer guru, established a very useful computer room at "the trailers" allowing us to connect the campus mainframe through the latest Telray terminals..

Slide 66 (Staff)

At lunch time, staff members practiced for a part in "A Chorus Line". On the left are Joanna Smith and Betsy Seagroves. Jo Heiss is second from the right.

Slide 67 (Staff)

In this photograph Dr. Becker, Veda Manley, and other research staff members were meeting to discuss their study of the health effects of oral contraceptive use or "the Pill Study".

Slide 68 (Oak Ridge Project)

We cannot let this era go by without mentioning the "Oak Ridge Project"- a series of occupational studies of the health effects of exposure to ionizing radiation. This picture was taken while the investigators and staff were vacationing, I mean on retreat in the North Carolina mountains.

Slide 69 (Shy)

Here Dr. Shy is speaking with a member of the advisory group for the Oak Ridge Project.

PAUSE

Slide 70 (Ibrahim and Greenberg)

In the early 1980's, there was another changing of the guard in the school and the department. Dr. Greenberg stepped down as Dean and Michel Ibrahim was appointed to succeed him.

Slide 71 (Hulka)

Dr. Barbara Hulka became the new Chair of the Department of Epidemiology. Life in the department during this time was busy as we grew in size and shape over the next eleven years. Biomarkers was the word of the day. This period was marked by an expansion of the Infectious Disease Program and a greater emphasis on the integration of laboratory sciences into epidemiological research.

Slide 72 (Seminar)

In this slide, we recognize, the pony-tailed Steve Wing during his student days participating in a seminar or an ESO meeting.

Slide 73 (Seminar)

Years later Steve is seen discussing a controversial topic at a faculty meeting with Meg McCann, Kristen Weigle, and Jinny Reid looking on.

Slide 74 (Heiss and White)

Gerardo Heiss and Alice White wait for a faculty meeting to begin.

Slide 75 (James)

Christine Branche, a doctoral student interested in occupational health, talks with Dr. Sherman James, a former faculty member, about "John Henryism", one of his research interests in psychosocial Epidemiology.

Slide 76 (Simpson and Sheps)

And, in spite of an early split with the medical school, the School of Public Health has maintained strong ties with its neighbors across the street. Here cardiologists, Ross Simpson and David Sheps, both with research interests in Epidemiology, race back across the street after a meeting in Rosenau Hall.

END of Tray # 1

TRAY # 2

(read while trays are being changed)

Throughout the years, the faculty, staff and students have shared in the teaching, research and service work of the department. We have also shared the sorrow of the passing of Drs. Cassel, Slome and Patrick. Yet through it all there have been many fun times.

Slide 1

Here are four students dressed up for the annual Halloween party.

Slides 2-4

And scenes from a few of many student winter holiday skits...

2 Then student Marilyn Vine and Frank Vinecor playing the roles of Sir Richard Doll and his faithful companion, Peto.

3 Steve Kritchevsky as the Marlboro Man and Amanda Adler as Virginia Slim

4 Among the seven dwarfs are Holly Hill and Donna Arnett.

Slide 5 (Sherman James)

Receptions were held for almost any occasion like this one in the late 80's where Sherman James is talking to John Hatch of the Department of Health Behavior and Health Education.

Slide 6 (Bert Kaplan)

And Bert is talking to Marla Salmon, a former chair of Public Health Nursing.

Slides 7, 8, 9 (Fall Picnic- drinking)

And of course, the fall Picnic where we (**# 8**) have been able to demonstrate our (**# 9**)culinary abilities and drink a few beers..

Pause a little- 3 slides

Slides 10, 11, 12 (Fall picnic- games)

Not to mention, show off our athletic ability at horseshoes

..... volleyball

..... and even football

Slide 13 (Bert and Joyce Allen)

Every now and then we would take a few minutes to talk to one another as we see Bert and Joyce Allen doing here.

PAUSE

Slides 14, 15 (Hulka)

Epidemiologists have always been known for their research and teaching. In 1975, Barbara Hulka received the Biostatistics/Epidemiology award while (#15) sporting a fashionable checked polyester leisure suit.

Slide 16 (Kaplan)

The McGavran Award was established to recognize excellence in teaching. The first award was made in 1975 to Dr. Roy Kuebler (KEEBLER) of Biostatistics. Bert Kaplan is shown here with Dean Greenberg and Mrs. McGavran presenting the award to Dr. Kuebler.

Slide 17(Cassel)

Epidemiology faculty have received the McGavran award in 7 of the past 17 years. Dr. Cassel in 1976....

Slide 18 (Kleinbaum)

David Kleinbaum in 1977....

Slide 19 (Kaplan)

Bert Kaplan in 1982...

Vic Schoenbach in 1989 and Al Tyroler in 1991 (**PHOTOS NOT SHOWN**)

Slide 20 (Heiss)

In 1993, Gerardo Heiss received the McGavran Award.

and Carl Shy in 1994. **(PHOTO NOT SHOWN)**

PAUSE

Slide 21 (MCGG)

The 1990's brought more changes to the school and to the department. A new SPH building was finally completed.

Slide 22 (Irva)

Energetic new faculty members joined the ranks of the department. Faculty like Irva Hertz-Piccioto...

Slide 23 (Newman and Moorman)

Trish Moorman and Beth Newman

Slide 24 (Olshan)

Andy Olshan...

Slide 25 (Millikan and Rosamond)

Bob Millikan and Wayne Rosamond...

Slide 26 (Alexander)

Lorraine Alexander

Slide 27 (Kohlmeier)

Here is Lenore Kohlmeier exhibiting our very relaxed working atmosphere.

Slide 28 (Stevens)

And June Stevens who has so much work to do that she has two computers at her side.

Slide 29 (Parisitology faculty)

Faculty from the Department of Parisitology were integrated into the Department of Epidemiology in the early 1990's. They are, clockwise from bottom left: Dick Seed, Ralph Baric, J.Ed Hall and Lola Stamm.

Slide 30 (Students 1961-62)

Since the 1961-62 academic year which had only 6 students, the number of Epidemiology majors has grown

Slide 31 (Wall Photos)

by leaps

Slide 32 (Mailboxes)

and bounds!

Slide 33 (Dr. Shy)

In 1992, Dr. Hulka decided to step aside as chair of the department. After a nationwide search, we found what we were looking for was at our own front door. Dr. Carl Shy became the next chair of the department. Here Dr. Shy, is shown welcoming new students at orientation in 1994. Under Carl, there was a renewed emphasis in the department on teaching and "small group discussions" became the catch phrase.

Slide 34, 35 (Ulm)

The department has a long history of international work beginning with a program in the mid 1960's to train Peace Corps volunteers for a tuberculosis control project in Malawi. Since the mid 80's faculty have taught many epidemiology courses abroad. Jim Thomas and Dana Loomis were invited by Dr. Herman Brenner to teach summer courses in 1990, in the beautiful city of Ulm, Germany.

Slide 36 (EPID Staff)

The Epidemiology staff, wanting a unified way to have a voice in the department, formed the Epidemiology Staff Forum in 1995.

Slides 37- 42 (Faculty and staff)

Today, most of the research staff are busy at work at the Nationsbank Building.

(# 37) Vic Rhodes....

(# 38) The research staff of the Neuroblastoma Project

(# 39) Darrah Degnan...

(# 40) CVD Group, including Phyllis, Wayne and Jim Pankow, the newest edition to the Epidemiology faculty.

(# 41) Marilyn Knowles, who works with the CVD Group and a Breast Cancer Project.

(# 42) Phyllis Johnson, Kay Paton, Christi Overman, and Sharon Pope sporting ARIC sweat shirts.

Slides 43-46

Most of the faculty, the administrative and clerical staff work in the McGavran-Greenberg Building.

(# 43) Carol Morton

(# 44) Dana Loomis

(# 45) Jinny Reid

(# 46) Lesa McPherson

PAUSE

Slide 47 (Shy and Savitz)

The department is continually changing. On August 15, 1996, Carl Shy literally passed the chair to his successor Dr. David Savitz. As you can see David is already sweating and it was only his first day on the job. OK, so he moved a few boxes earlier that morning.

Slides 48 (Celebration #1)

One of Dr. Savitz's first orders of business was to call for a celebration honoring his predecessor, Carl Shy, and two other distinguished senior faculty members, Bert Kaplan and Al Tyroler.

Slides 49,50, 51 (Shy, Tyroler and Kaplan)

The honorees shared some of their experiences in Epidemiology and told us about their visions of the future. *PAUSE- WAIT for LAST SLIDE*

Slide 52 (Gail King)

We enjoyed good food

Slides 53, 54 (Hulka, Royce, Wing)

Great music provided by our talented faculty, Steve Wing, Barbara Hulka and Rachel Royce.

Slides 55, 56 (Scenes)

And time to relax and enjoy the company of family, friends and colleagues; to reminisce about our past with old-timers; and share our history with newcomers. *PAUSE- WAIT for LAST SLIDE*

Slides 57-59 (Cassel; EPID Faculty; EPID Staff)

The Department of Epidemiology has a heritage enriched by keen intellects, scientific curiosity, creativity, hard work, and a caring about the public's health. Throughout the years the faculty and staff have worked together to make our department one of the finest in the country.

Slides 60- 66 (Students)

This (# 60 David) is the legacy that we pass on to our (#61 Mark) students --- the epidemiologists of tomorrow. (# 62 Rosa) They will carry on the traditions of the past (# 63 Suzie and Katy) and hold the promise of the future. (# 64 Kathy)

Because of students and post doctoral fellows (# 65 Neal) alike, we look toward the future (# 66 student group) with hope.

Slide 67(Photograph Credits)

Slide 68 (Acknowledgments)

Photograph Credits

Ed Davis

Eileen Gregory

Al Tyroler

Marilyn Vine

Jeanne Warner

Susanne Wolf

The Department of Epidemiology Collection

The School of Public Health Collection

The Lipids Research Center Collection

Acknowledgments

In telling the early history of the Department of Epidemiology, I relied on stories in *Dreaming Of A Time*, a history of the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina by Robert Rodgers Korstad and on facts and figures presented in annual reports of the Department of Epidemiology. The history that has occurred since my tenure in the department is told primarily from memory, hazy as it is at times. The details taken from written documents are far more reliable than those recalled from memory. Any inaccuracies in this account that were within the range of my experience in the department can be attributed to faulty recollection of the way things were.

Phyllis Johnson and Marilyn Vine were both excellent informational resources and sources of encouragement during production. Their contributions are deeply appreciated.

**Sue Wolf
March 1997**

