



GILLINGS SCHOOL OF
GLOBAL PUBLIC HEALTH

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2023 • 2:00PM

G-100 GENOME SCIENCES BUILDING, UNC-CHAPEL HILL



Memorial Service to Honor

Jo Anne L. Earp

JULY 26, 1943 – NOVEMBER 18, 2022

“Some have said I led by example. Others have told me that if staying as late at the office, working as hard as I seemed to do, was the example, they weren’t having any of it, thank you very much! What neither group realized was that I only knew one way of doing things: full steam ahead. I lacked a modulating gene! Doggedness I knew; determination I had; and a certain sense of how good other people were or had the potential to be.”

— JO ANNE L. EARP, 2019

Remembering ...

Jo Anne L. Earp

Dr. Jo Anne L. Earp, beloved and brilliant educator, researcher, wife, mother and grandmother, leaves a powerful legacy of research that makes a difference, and of generations of people who know how to use their gifts to foster healthier, more equitable communities. A bold, creative thinker and doer from a young age, she earned her BA in English (Bryn Mawr, 1965), spending her senior year at Newcomb College (now Tulane University) to participate fully as an activist.

Jo Anne's brief first marriage brought the joy of her first son, Nicholas – and the beginning of her trajectory as a researcher and academic leader. She earned her ScD in medical sociology (1974) from John Hopkins University. During this time, she met the absolute love of her life, H. Shelton (Shelley) Earp, MD, now director of UNC Cancer Care and the UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. The two married in 1974 and moved to Chapel Hill, both joining the University of North Carolina faculty. These golden years also brought their son Matthew. Throughout that time, and across almost 50 years of marriage, Jo Anne and Shelley were each other's closest friends and advisors.

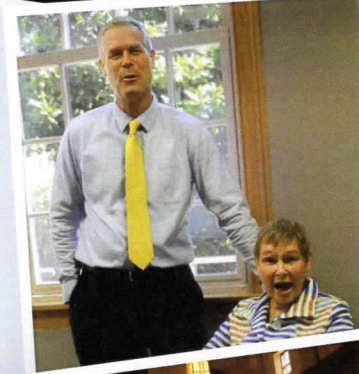
At UNC, Jo Anne was among the first women appointed as a researcher to the School of Public Health faculty, in what was then called the Department of Health Education (now Health Behavior).

She brought to her research the same fiery passion she had demonstrated on the front lines of the civil rights movement, capturing the department's first NIH grant; creating Carolina's first women's health class; and developing the department's first course on social and behavioral research methods.

She co-founded the N.C. Breast Cancer Screening Program in the 1980s, one of the first large-scale interventions testing the "lay health advisor" approach to promoting and protecting health. The program proved that trusted community members could be powerful change agents, helping to increase mammography screening rates in their communities, thereby reducing cancer deaths among Black women in rural NC.

As chair of Health Behavior for 13 years, Jo Anne led with a signature style of persistence and passion for rigorous inquiry and for ensuring that all who came in her orbit could access the resources and conditions they needed to thrive. Her mentoring was legendary, as was her support for Carolina. She received the Gillings School's Larsh Award for Mentorship and the UNC General Alumni Association Faculty Service Award in recognition of these contributions.





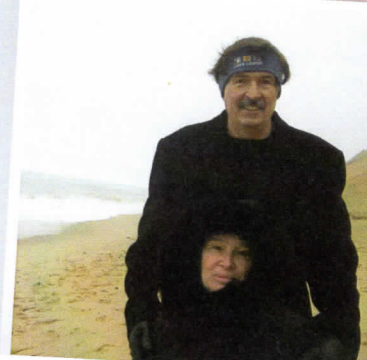
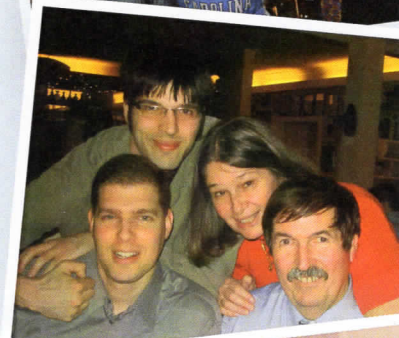
Advocate, connector, bridge-builder, ally, supporter, cheerleader and networker, Jo Anne Earp gave back to the very end.

Jo Anne is survived by her beloved husband Shelley; sons Nicholas (Krista) and Matthew (Sarah); grandchildren (Nicholas, Tyler, Alexis and Rhye); brother and sister-in-law Michael and Carol Lesser and nieces Emily and Julia; sister-in-law and brother-in-law Pam Earp Young and Ron Young and niece Laura; and many, many dear friends who have fulfilled their potential in part because of her belief in them. 🏠

Speakers

- **ELIZABETH FRENCH**
Associate Dean for Strategic Initiatives; UNC Gillings
- **KURT RIBISL**
Jo Anne Earp Distinguished Professor and Chair; Department of Health Behavior; UNC Gillings
- **BERYL RADIN**
Retired, Georgetown School of Public Policy
- **ROSALIND THOMAS**
Retired, New York State Department of Health
- **NICK HOLLANDER**
Son, Marietta, GA

- **ADINA KALET**
Stephen and Shelagh Roell Endowed Chair; Robert D. and Patricia E. Kern Institute for the Transformation of Medical Education; Medical College of Wisconsin
- **EDITH PARKER**
Dean, University of Iowa College of Public Health
- **ERIN KOBETZ-KERMAN**
Vice Provost for Research + Scholarship; Associate Director, Population Sciences and Cancer Disparity, Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center; John K. and Judy H. Schulte Senior Endowed Chair in Cancer Research
- **NICOLE BATES**
Director, Strategic Partnerships & Initiatives; Pivotal Ventures
- **NICHOLAS HOLLANDER**
Grandson, Clinton, NY
- **MELISSA GILKEY**
Associate Professor of Health Behavior, UNC Gillings
- **JILLIAN CASEY**
Resident Naturopathic Doctor, Capital Integrative Health
- **LILLY O'TOOLE**
Health Behavior MPH Student, UNC Gillings
- **SOPHIE PIESSE**
Architect, LEED® AP, PA
- **FITZHUGH BRUNDAGE**
William Umstead Distinguished Professor of History, UNC-CH
- **BARBARA RIMER**
Alumni Distinguished Professor of Health Behavior, Dean Emerita, UNC Gillings
- **MATT EARP**
Son, Oakland, CA



Acknowledgements

It's impossible to express how grateful the family and I are for your outpouring of love in the days and weeks following Jo Anne's passing. We have seen Jo Anne in each of you – in your vivid remembrances, your visits, your phone calls, and in your hundreds of cards. Jo Anne would have cherished every single word and action, and so do we.

A very special thank you goes to Matthew Earp, Elizabeth French, Alexis Moore, Kurt Ribisl, and Wendi Seiler, who generously shared the gift of their time, creativity and love in planning today's memorial service.

Finally, we draw your attention to the sculpture in the lobby, created by textile and paper artist Anita Wolfenden using some of Jo Anne's drawings.

Thank you, Anita, for honoring Jo Anne in this illuminating way.

Memorial gifts

Donations in memory of Jo Anne may be made in support of The Jo Anne Earp Scholarship Fund or The Jo Anne Earp Distinguished Professorship. Gifts can be made online here go.unc.edu/JEarp or mailed to: **UNC-Chapel Hill, PO Box 309, Chapel Hill, NC 27514**, checks payable to **UNC-CH Public Health Foundation**.

(Please note "In memory of Jo Anne Earp" in the memo line and if the gift is for the scholarship or professorship.)

