In Memoriam

Glenn Elwin Austin, M.D., B.S. ’43, died April 11, 2005, at his home in Beaverton, Oregon, at age 83. Born July 5, 1921, in Berkeley, he served in the U.S. Army during World War II, then put himself through medical school at Stanford University. He practiced pediatrics in Los Altos, California, for 48 years. Austin was instrumental in establishing guidelines for testing and treating children with ADHD. He was active in medical politics, pushing the establishment to make changes in health care that were more sensible and affordable to the average person. His hard work and dedication to medicine led to a term as president of the American Academy of Pediatrics from 1981 to 1982. He is survived by his wife, Olive E. Austin, three daughters, one son, and seven grandchildren.

Sir Richard Doll, M.D., D.Sc., D.M., one of the world’s foremost epidemiologists and a widely respected cancer researcher, died at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, England, at age 92. Doll and his colleague, Sir Austin Bradford-Hill, proved the link between cigarette smoking and lung cancer while working at the British Medical Research Council’s Statistical Research Unit. Their report, published in 1950, was based on a survey of lung cancer in the years 1935-1940. Grier's work included planning for services for the elderly including Alzheimer’s services and home support for frail elders. He was involved in community-based planning for the San Francisco Department of Public Health in the 1980s. Recently, he completed a research project for the Health Research and Educational Trust, which included several case studies from around the country documenting the hospital-public health linkages for disaster preparedness. Other recent projects were with the U.S. Public Health Services HIV/AIDS Bureau, the Mather Institute on Aging in Evanston, Illinois, the Public Health Institute in Berkeley, Nancy Frank & Associates in Oakland, and the National Assembly for Voluntary Health & Social Welfare Organizations in Washington, D.C. He is survived by his life partner, Glen Stroud, and his family in the Portland area.

Reed E. Grier, Ph.D. ’04, M.P.H. ’82, M.C.P., died August 12, 2005, at age 51. Born in Seattle, Washington, he moved to the Bay Area in 1975 to attend UC Berkeley, where he earned his bachelor’s and graduate degrees. During his years in the Bay Area, he worked with a wide range of public and private sector research and service organizations addressing issues of health and welfare. Grier’s work included planning for services for the elderly including Alzheimer’s services and home support for frail elders. He was involved in community-based planning for the San Francisco Department of Public Health in the 1980s. Recently, he completed a research project for the Health Research and Educational Trust, which included several case studies from around the country documenting the hospital-public health linkages for disaster preparedness. Other recent projects were with the U.S. Public Health Services HIV/AIDS Bureau, the Mather Institute on Aging in Evanston, Illinois, the Public Health Institute in Berkeley, Nancy Frank & Associates in Oakland, and the National Assembly for Voluntary Health & Social Welfare Organizations in Washington, D.C. He is survived by his life partner, Glen Stroud, and his family in the Portland area.

Donations to the “Reed Grier Memorial Loan Fund” may be sent to Patricia Hosel, Office of External Relations, School of Public Health, UC Berkeley, 140 Earl Warren Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360.

Emery A. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H. ’64, former U.S. assistant surgeon general and the longest serving director of the Indian Health Service, died June 26 at his home in Rockville, Maryland, at age 76. From 1969 to 1981 he ran the Indian Health Service, the principal health care provider and health advocate for 1.6 million American Indians and Alaska natives. He was a major contributor to the development of legislation such as the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act of 1975 and the Indian Health Care Improvement Act of 1976, both of which still govern federal policy. During his tenure, construction of major hospitals and clinics increased dramatically. Johnson was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. He graduated from Hamline University in St. Paul, Minnesota, and received his medical degree from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He received a master’s degree in public health from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1964. He joined the Public Health Service after medical school, just as the Bureau of Indian Affairs was turning over the Indian Health Service to the Public Health Service. Johnson stayed with the agency throughout his career. He was a reservation staff physician in Winnebago, Nebraska, and White Earth, Minnesota, and an administrator in Billings, Montana, Phoenix, Arizona, and Silver Spring, Maryland. He helped develop the John F. Kennedy National Medical Center in Monrovia, Liberia, and was a consultant to the Peace Corps and World Health Organization in Africa. He is survived by his wife, Nancy Mourning Johnson, four children, and a grandson.

Catherine T. Kennedy, B.S. ’37, died May 15, 2005, at age 91. She was a registered nurse for 45 years including 37 years as a nurse in the Long Beach Unified School District in Long Beach, California. She also served as a public health nurse during World War II. She was an active supporter of women’s rights and Alzheimer’s research and was involved with childcare and seniors’ issues. Born in Brooklyn, New York, she moved to Long Beach with her family as a child. She is survived by her son, Patrick Kennedy, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and another son. Memorial donations may be made payable to the “School of Public Health Fund” and sent to the attention of Patricia Hosel, Office of External Relations, School of Public Health, UC Berkeley, 140 Earl Warren Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360.
Marc Alan Lappé, Ph.D.,
died May 14, 2005, at his
home in Gualala,
California,
at age 62.
Lappé was a
leading figure in the movement to integrate
ethics and public policy, especially as it related
to toxics and genetics. He also served as an
expert witness and consultant for plaintiff
attorneys suing chemical companies, including
lawsuits against silicone gel breast implant
makers, the producers of the herbicide Agent
Orange, and the high-profile case against
W.R. Grace & Co. The Newark, New Jersey,
native earned his Ph.D. in experimental
pathology from the University of Pennsylvania.
He authored or edited fourteen books, many
of which predicted public health and environ-
mental problems long before their appear-
ance. In 1978, he was named by California
Governor Jerry Brown as chief of the state’s
Office of Health, Law, and Values, and then as
head of the state’s Hazard Evaluation System.
He resigned in 1980 after opposing the
state’s spraying of the insecticide Malathion
to halt the Medfly outbreak plaguing
California’s citrus crops. He held teaching
posts at Sarah Lawrence College; University of
Illinois at Chicago School of Medicine; the
College of Marin; and the University of
California, Berkeley, where he was an associ-
ate adjunct professor at the School of Public
Health from 1983 to 1985. He was the direc-
tor of the Gualala, California-based nonprofit
Center for Ethics and Toxics, an environmental
public policy organization that works directly
with California municipalities concerned about
contaminants in their water supplies. Lappé
was also an award-winning poet. He is sur-
vived by his wife, Jacqueline Durbin, as well
as his father, his brother, two sons, three
daughters, and two step-children.

In Memoriam

Seiko Baba Brodbeck, B.S. ’48, who served for 17
years as associate executive director of the
American Public Health Association (APHA), died
August 13, 2005, at the age of 77.

Brodbeck received her bachelor of science degree
in public health microbiology in 1948 from the
University of California, Berkeley. Upon graduating,
Brodbeck became a public health microbiologist for
the Oakland City and Los Angeles County Health
Departments. Shortly thereafter, she became the
laboratory director for the Oakland City Health
Department. When the Oakland City Health and
Alameda County Health Departments merged, she
was asked to direct their public health laboratory
services, which she did for 12 years. In 1971 she
assumed the directorship of the Western Regional
Office of the American Public Health Association
and became its executive director. In 1976 she
began her 17-year tenure as APHA’s associate
executive director at its national headquarters in
Washington, D.C. In 1993 she returned to her
California roots first as deputy director, audits and
investigations, and subsequently as assistant
deputy director of public health practice for the
California Department of Health Services.

Brodbeck was involved with a variety of public
health projects over her long and distinguished
career, including “National Health and Safety
Performance Standards: Guideline for Out-of-Home
Childcare Programs” and “Model Standards—
Health Communities 2000.” In 1996 she
received the Distinguished Member Award from
the California Public Health Association—North; in
1970 she received the John J. Sippy Award from
the Western Branch of APHA and in 1995 was
named Outstanding Public Health Laboratorian
by APHA.

She was actively involved with the UC Berkeley
School of Public Health as an alumna, serving on
the Public Health Alumni Association board of
directors from 1999 to 2002. In 1998, she received
the School’s Alumna of the Year Award.

She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law,
Stacey Baba and James Vokac.

Gifts in memory of Seiko Baba Brodbeck may be
made payable to the “School of Public Health
Fund” and sent to the attention of Patricia Hosel,
Office of External Relations, School of Public
Health, UC Berkeley, 140 Earl Warren Hall,
Berkeley, CA 94720-7360.
Ruth Lois Huenemann, Professor Emerita and Public Health Nutrition Pioneer

Ruth Lois Huenemann, D.Sc., professor emerita and founder of the public health nutrition program at the University of California, Berkeley, died August 19, 2005, at the Lake Park Retirement Residence in Oakland at the age of 95. Huenemann was one of the first researchers to recognize the importance of systematically studying the longitudinal development of obesity in children, conducting seminal studies that to this day inform the understanding of the current epidemic of childhood obesity.

“She was a legend in her time,” says Patricia Crawford, Dr.P.H. ’94, R.D., codirector of UC Berkeley’s Center for Weight and Health and one of Huenemann’s former students and colleagues. “Students sought out nutrition programs that she created.”

Huenemann’s research and teaching combined rigorous scientific methods with a pragmatic approach to improving nutrition in a variety of cultural settings. She traveled widely in Latin America, Asia, and Europe as a consultant and lecturer for the World Health Organization, the U.S. State Department’s food aid program, and numerous international health and nutrition organizations. She was particularly noted for several longitudinal studies of nutrition and physical activity among adolescents and children. In the Berkeley Teenage Study, she studied nearly 1,000 students from the Berkeley Unified School District from 1961 to 1965 to determine the onset and prevalence of factors related to the development of adult obesity.

She also led the initial four years, from 1969 to 1973, of what would become the Berkeley Longitudinal Nutrition Study, which worked with children from the age of six months through age 16 years. That study was subsequently led by a colleague in the School of Public Health, Leona R. Shapiro, M.S.

“Research in which such a large group of children was studied for so long was unusual at that time,” says Shapiro. “Huenemann looked at the wide-ranging factors that could have influenced the development of obesity.”

Her studies provided a wealth of detailed data on teenagers’ eating habits, physical activity and body composition. The research revealed a link between low income and an increased risk for obesity, something researchers are still trying to fully understand today.

“That was one of the first studies to show the complex relationship between socioeconomic status and obesity,” says Crawford. The researchers also found that teenagers were getting much less exercise than previously thought, signaling the influence of television and cars. Says Crawford, “The issue of childhood obesity seems so current now, but imagine what it was like in the 1960s when she sought funding for such studies. She had foresight into a growing problem.”

Huenemann was born to a farming family in Waukon, Iowa, on February 5, 1910, the second-oldest of 14 children. In 1913, her father moved the family to Wisconsin. In 1928, Huenemann graduated from Menno High School in South Dakota, where her family had moved the prior year. She spent five years teaching in a one-room school, and saving money to attend college.

She received a B.S. in nutrition from the University of Wisconsin in 1938, and earned an M.S. in nutrition from the University of Chicago in 1941 while working as a staff diettian at the university’s clinics. Over the next decade, she worked as an associate professor at the University of Tennessee, where she established the university’s public health nutrition program as well as a community nutrition program in Knoxville. During her years at Tennessee, she was offered a scholarship to study at Harvard University and proceeded to earn her doctor of science degree in public health nutrition in 1954.

She joined UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health in 1953, where she founded the school’s public health nutrition program, establishing its curriculum, research program, staff and funding.

“In her first class at UC Berkeley, there were only two students who majored in public health nutrition,” says Shapiro. “By the time she retired, the school had awarded more than 250 public health degrees in nutrition. The program she developed at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health had become the preeminent center for training of applied nutritionists in the country. By the time she retired in 1977, she had created an enviable record in teaching and research.”

Her 24-year tenure at UC Berkeley included terms as chair of the Department of Nutritional Sciences at UC Berkeley’s College of Natural Resources, and chair of the Department of Social and Administrative Health Sciences in the School of Public Health.

While at UC Berkeley, she created the first program to enable students earning a bachelor’s degree in public health nutrition to also become eligible as registered dietitians. This model has since been emulated in other public health nutrition programs around the country.

Huenemann sat on many notable committees throughout her career, including the National Advisory Council on Child Nutrition and the National Research Council. She was also a member of the editorial board of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, served as president of the Society for Nutrition Education and received the Dolores Nyhus Memorial Award in 1979, the highest honor given by the California Dietetic Association.

Huenemann is survived by her brother and dozens of nieces and nephews.

Donations in her memory may be made to the Ruth L. Huenemann Scholarship Fund, Office of External Relations, School of Public Health, UC Berkeley, 140 Earl Warren Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360.

—Sarah Yang