"In one lifetime, Bill Reeves both identified a major cause of death and disease in California—western equine encephalitis—and developed mosquito control programs to eradicate it."

—S. Leonard Syme, UC Berkeley professor emeritus of epidemiology and a close friend of Reeves’s for more than 35 years

"The groundbreaking research that Bill and his colleagues did on the St. Louis encephalitis virus—a close cousin to West Nile virus—gave us a roadmap for understanding West Nile virus, helping us to predict how it would behave in North America. His death will resonate throughout the arboviral community."

—Dr. Roy Campbell, chief of the surveillance and epidemiology activity of the Arboviral Diseases Branch at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Ft. Collins, Colo., and a former student of Reeves’s

"He was a giant in his field whose work has had a pervasive impact for over six decades."

—Stephen M. Shortell, dean, UC Berkeley School of Public Health

Conflict section of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine Health Policy Department, co-writing a chapter on the economics of surgical interventions in the developing world for a World Bank/WHO-sponsored textbook, and even the occasional lecture at the School of Public Health."

Victor Chen, M.D., M.P.H. ’03 “I decided in mid-December to return to Modesto, Calif., where I took a position with the faculty group of the family practice residency program in which I had trained. I was looking..."
Reeves with his wife, Mary Jane.

were then able to effectively target a key source of disease transmission.

One of only a few entomologists working in a field dominated by medical specialists, Reeves went on to isolate more arthropod-borne viruses and developed numerous innovations. With his knowledge of what attracts mosquitoes to animals, Reeves designed the first method to trap live mosquitoes by using carbon dioxide and light. He also invented a way of tracking mosquitoes by marking them with a fluorescent dust, which has enabled researchers to study the mosquitoes’ life cycles, including how far they travel, how long they live, and other critical information used to design and evaluate mosquito control programs.

One of the more notable innovations established by Reeves was the now-famous “sentinel chicken” disease monitoring system. Reeves discovered that chickens develop antibodies after being bitten by infected mosquitoes, but they do not become ill nor carry enough of the virus to further transmit the disease. Because chickens are kept in one place, positive blood test results mean infected mosquitoes are in the vicinity. The system has since been copied throughout the world and is used today in some areas to monitor the spread of West Nile virus.

Throughout his career Reeves discovered several new species of insects and is credited with coining the term arbovirus, short for “arthropod-borne virus,” a name eventually accepted by the World Health Organization.

Reeves officially retired in 1987 but continued to actively advise from his campus office, participating in recent years in conference calls that the Centers for Disease Control held with state health departments. When West Nile virus emerged as a new public health threat, Reeves became an invaluable resource for public health officials, many of whom were his former students.

Reeves is survived by his wife and three sons, and an extended family that includes four grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Donations in Reeves’s memory can be made to the William C. Reeves Memorial Fund for Students and mailed to the Office of External Relations, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, 140 Warren Hall, Berkeley, California, 94720-7360. Gifts can also be made online at https://colt.berkeley.edu/urelgift/public_health.html.

for an opportunity where I could be involved with resident teaching, practice medicine in a community-based setting, the local public health department and the surrounding community. Currently, I’m based in West Modesto in one of seven county clinics….Our clinic gets strong community support, and we have the opportunity to not only develop a working model of community-oriented primary care, but to serve as a resource and active participant in the West Modesto community.”

Glenn Kan, M.D., M.B.A., M.P.H. ’03

“I am a preventive medicine resident with the California Department of Health Services (CDHS) and am in the home stretch of my practicum year….I was placed in a CDHS agency, the Office of Clinical Preventive Medicine, and in the Yolo County Health Department. In addition to getting exposure to a broader variety of projects with this state-county mix, seeing the dynamics that occur between the two levels of government with regard to particular topics was particularly interesting…My placements have been both complementary and skill broadening.”

Deborah S. Edelman, Dr.P.H. ’04, started a postdoctoral research fellowship position at Johns Hopkins’ Bloomberg School of Public Health this past summer. She is continuing her research on the role of media in public health, focusing now on Youth Radio.
In Memoriam

Faiga Fram Duncan, B.A. ’34, M.P.H. ’59, died in April, 2004. One of the first students in UC Berkeley’s Department of Hygiene (the forerunner of today’s School of Public Health), Duncan’s career included work in Sydney, Australia, and at San Francisco General Hospital. A dedicated alumna, she shared a case-based curriculum module with the School based upon her experiences working with TB patients, pregnant undocumented immigrants, and counties that shirked care for the indigent. Recalling her own financial hardships at Berkeley during the Great Depression, Duncan proved a tireless volunteer for the School, participating in annual telephone fundraising campaigns, recruiting volunteer callers, and personally making more than 500 calls. She coordinated class reunions and sought employers to participate in the School’s annual career fair. In 1987 the California Alumni Association and the UC Berkeley Foundation presented Duncan with the Trustees Citation recognizing her as one of the campus’s 25 most active and supportive alumni.

Jiann-Ping Hsu, Ph.D. ’77, an internationally known scholar and scientist in biostatistics, died February 9, 2004, at age 56, after a long battle with cancer. She is survived by her husband, her parents, and four sisters.

Born in mainland China in 1947 and educated in Taiwan, Hsu was a scholar of mathematical sciences, earning a B.S. in mathematics at the National Taiwan University, an M.A. in mathematical statistics at Columbia, and a Ph.D. in biostatistics from UC Berkeley. She served with the Food and Drug Administration and sat on review panels for clinical trial grant applications for the National Institute on Drug Abuse. Hsu held research positions with leading pharmaceutical firms and became president of the Michigan-based Biopharmaceutical Research Consultants, Inc. Honored with many professional awards, she mentored and trained more than 60 biostatisticians.

In January of 2004, the Jiann-Ping Hsu School of Public Health at Georgia Southern University was established and endowed in her name by her husband, Dr. Karl E. Peace, director of Georgia Southern’s Center for Biostatistics. It is the first school of public health in Georgia’s university system. Peace has also established the Jiann-Ping Hsu Biostatistics Award for Excellence at UC Berkeley’s School of Public Health.


Reshetko spent much of her career teaching science at Mission High School in San Francisco, where she developed a program with local hospitals called “Mission Possible,” which offered students actual experience working in the medical field. She was also an active fundraiser for “Close Up,” a program that sponsored student visits to Washington, D.C. She is survived by her cousins, George McKay of Alameda, Calif., and Boris Fedushin of New York City; and the family of her partner, the late Col. Charles Kay.

Reshetko’s belief in the potential of students inspired her to establish an endowed supporting scholarships in both the School of Public Health and the College of Letters and Science at UC Berkeley. Gifts in her honor may be made to the Reshetko Family Scholarship Fund, Office of External Relations & Development, UC Berkeley School of Public Health, 140 Warren Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-7360.

David Clement Riese, B.S. ’61, M.P.H. ’68, died July 19, 2004. Born and raised in Martinez, Calif., he earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from UC Berkeley, then joined the U.S. Army Reserve at Fort Ord in Monterey. After six months of active duty he went to work for the California Department of Health in 1961, taking a leave of absence in 1968 to earn his M.P.H. Riese and his wife, Mary Huntley Riese, both worked for the Department of Health, first in Berkeley and then in Sacramento, until their retirement in 1996. During his career with the Department of Health Services, Riese played an instrumental role in the creation and development of many of the state’s health programs, including the Tobacco Control Program, Breast Cancer Program, Preventative Health Care for the Aging Program, Cancer Surveillance Section and the California Cancer and Nutrition “5-A-Day” Campaign. His final position was as deputy chief of the Cancer Control Branch. Riese is survived by his wife, his sisters-in-law and brother-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

Hedwig G. Taylor, widow of Professor Emeritus Keith O. Taylor, died July 3, 2004. She was as an avid reader who enjoyed lawn bowling, painting, and playing Scrabble. The Taylors were generous planned giving supporters of the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

Veva Jeanne Winkelstein, wife of Professor Emeritus Warren Winkelstein, Jr., died September 15, 2004, at the couple’s home in Point Richmond, Calif. She loved travel, her garden, music, opera, theatre, and the arts. She was active locally in the University Section Club and The McInnis Park Women’s Golf Club and served on the board of the Pt. Richmond Masquers Playhouse. She had a successful career working for the University of California (San Diego, Berkeley, and San Francisco campuses). In addition to her husband of 30 years, Winkelstein is survived by her five children, three stepchildren, two sisters, and 13 great-grandchildren.

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