

In Memorium

Family Medicine Visionary F. Marian Bishop, PhD, MSPH, Made a Difference in Countless Lives

On March 15, 2003, a stalwart visionary in the field of family medicine died. Marian Bishop, PhD, MSPH, was amazing throughout her life, working diligently, faithfully, and persistently toward her long-term goals of seeing family medicine become a rightfully dominant player in medicine. The combination of training in sociology, anthropology, and public health provided the broad background that she parlayed into a long career intertwining medical and social factors in health and educational administration.

She was often called "the mother of academic family medicine," a title earned because of all of the organizations she led in their developmental stages and her strong push to develop leaders in family medicine. She was the first female and the first PhD president of STFM, the first PhD president of the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine, the first woman chair of a department at the University of Utah School of Medicine, the first representative of academic family medicine in the Association of American Medical Colleges' (AAMC) Council of Academic Societies (CAS), the first representative of family medicine to be elected to the CAS Administrative Board; her list of honors goes on for two

pages. She was a department chair for 20 years, divided between two different institutions. She was a faculty member in Schools of Dentistry, Health and Allied Health, and Medicine. Her reach was felt throughout medical education. She worked on many federal government advisory committees, influencing public health and health personnel policies, work of which she was quite proud. At almost every annual STFM meeting, she was presenting something about federal issues to inform the membership.

Surviving a long-term medical illness is often referred to as a "battle." This did not characterize Marian's zest and desire to make a difference, no matter what befell her personally. Her public acknowledgment of her breast cancer and her continuance in public roles exem-

plified her strong will. In the last few years of her life, she was anything but waning. She tackled every task, going to meetings with oxygen tank in tow and speaking when it was difficult, such as giving a rousing and memorable speech on leadership at the Piscano Scholar's Leadership Conference last fall or working with her esteemed Bishop Fellowship Program several days before her death.

How can one express the treasure she was? There was so much to learn from her. She had a disarming way of telling someone that she disagreed with their position (it was at least partly her smile). She knew how to get things done. Just as she gave money, she could ask for money. She called it as she saw it, and we can only wish to be so insightful, so quickly. A few aphorisms may also describe other pertinent characteristics: "Persistence pays." "Maintain a strong ethical stance." "Do not be a wallflower." Each of these major abilities are needed by leaders.

But, there is another ability that I found simultaneously simple and profound. "Promote others, while also promoting yourself." She wanted to develop leaders. While she may call it mentoring, I call it promotional mentoring. Promotional mentoring was such a driving force in her life, through both action and word, that her deeds will be remembered and felt for many years. "I am submitting your name



F. Marian Bishop, PhD, MSPH
1927–2003

for . . . (major position).” “Of course, you can.” “We need more family medicine leaders in academic medicine.” Her letters of reference were a marvel, well crafted, and eloquent.

She lived up to her ideals by contributing her personal efforts and money. There are annual awards given at both STFM and the University of Utah in her name. She created the major 1-year program to develop high-level academic leaders in family medicine—the Bishop Fellowship Program of the

STFM Foundation—through her tremendous generosity. She was careful with her money, so she could have more money to give to others, to “make a difference.” And, make a difference she did.

Her husband, Dr Robert Froelich, was a significant influence on her career and a wonderfully supportive life partner. They cowrote a book on medical interviewing for medical students. His travels influenced her early career through remarkable adventures and new institutions. Their relationship and their

ability to manage two separate careers are an inspiration for others. The closeness of the family, including children and grandchildren, felt special. For her family’s tribute and more details on her life, go to www.fmbishop.us.

Dr Marian Bishop will be missed, tremendously. Her contributions are something to which each of us should aspire. A friend, a promotional mentor, a true leader.

Marjorie A. Bowman, MD, MPA
STFM President 1991–1992