

Barbara Tye (1942-2024)



Good Afternoon,

I am writing to you today with sad but not unexpected news. Our Association founder, Professor Emerita Barbara Tye, lost her battle yesterday with pancreatic cancer. I am forwarding the message of Barbara's passing from the Provost's office.

For those of you who may not know the history of the founding of the Association, I would like to share the following: In the years before Barbara left Chapman for her retirement in Santa Rosa, she embarked upon a years-long project to found the Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association of Chapman University. Along with Professor Emeritus Don Booth, now deceased, and Professors Emeriti Virginia Carson, John Koshak, Karl Reitz and others, Barbara worked to study other faculty association models, met with Chapman administrators, and met with the founding members to establish our Association. The Association held its inaugural luncheon hosted by the Provost's office in 2016.

Before Barbara left for Santa Rosa, she entrusted me with the founding papers of the Association which I deposited in the Archives in the Leatherby Libraries. Barbara was my mentor for the Association and I was grateful that we were an e-mail away from each other when I had a question for her. Kind, patient and thoughtful, Barbara led with grace and dignity with such positivity in her voice that one felt secure in her leadership. When Barbara left for Santa Rosa, she left a huge void in our Association. I missed her and her hands-on leadership. Barbara is not replaceable. All we can do as an Association is to honor her memory by keeping the Association, the dream and the fruition of the dream of our founder Barbara Tye, viable, for ourselves and for future retired and emeriti faculty.

We have lost our inspiring founder and leader and I miss her greatly.

Claudia Horn

Communication Chair

Retired and Emeriti Faculty Association of Chapman University



From the Office of the Provost
Norma Bouchard, Ph.D.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Dr. Barbara Benham Tye, Professor Emerita of Education at the Attallah College of Educational Studies, Chapman University. Dr. Tye, an esteemed educator, scholar, and leader, passed away on August 26, 2024, at her home in Santa Rosa, California.

Barbara Benham Tye attended Antioch College and later earned her BA ('65) and MA ('67) from the University of Illinois, followed by an EdD ('77) from Texas Tech University. Her early career was marked by a Fulbright year in Afghanistan (1966-67), where she conducted folklore research. She later contributed to the development of the IGE High School Model at the C. F. Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio, and worked on its implementation in Greer, South Carolina. She also taught Secondary Education at Furman University (1972-75).

In 1977, after completing her doctoral work, Barbara joined UCLA as part of John Goodlad's Study of Schooling research team. Following the project's conclusion in 1980, she married Ken Tye (Professor Emeritus) and embarked on educational projects worldwide, including in Norway, Indonesia, and Dubai. After Ken's passing in 2015, Barbara relocated to northern California in 2016, residing at Friends House, a Quaker retirement community, where she found companionship with her partner, Elizabeth Boardman.

Barbara's tenure at Chapman University spanned from 1983 to 2008, during which she served as the inaugural Dean of the then School of Education (1989-1993) and later as a professor until her retirement. She continued teaching part-time in the MA and PhD programs until 2016. Her research focused on global education, school change, and deep structure theory in schools. Barbara authored several seminal works, including "Multiple Realities: A Study of 13 American High Schools" (1985), "Global Education: A Study of School Change" (1992), and "Hard Truths: Uncovering the Deep Structure of Schooling" (2000). Her most recent book, "Truda's Boots: Stories from the Remarkable Life of Gertrude Emily Benham (1867-1938)," was published in 2023.

Barbara is survived by her two brothers, Ian and Craig; three step-children, Steve, Debbie, and Michael; five grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; and her beloved partner, Elizabeth Boardman. A memorial celebration will be held at Friends House in Santa Rosa; the date and time will be announced soon.

Reflecting on her impact, Barbara's brother, Craig, shared: "Barbara was beloved by many and admired by all. She touched countless lives through her work and friendships." Below are some of the testimonials offered by her colleagues and friends.

Testimonials:

Roxanne Greitz Miller, Dean of the Attallah College of Educational Studies and Professor of Teacher Education:

"I first met Barbara Tye in person on the day of my Chapman interview; however, I felt that I knew her already as her book *Global Education* was the core text in one of my doctoral courses at Florida International University. She provided an outstanding example of commitment and passion to equitable education throughout her career, and her impact continues to influence the Attallah College and its faculty in our pursuit of excellence and student service."

Don Cardinal, Professor Emeritus, close friend, neighbor, colleague, and former dean:

"When I first came to Chapman College's Department of Education in 1988, I saw it as a stepping stone. Then I met Barbara Tye. She lovingly humbled me, not by tearing me down, but by showing me, first by example, then through mentorship, how to accomplish great things within a small footprint. Her big ideas were not just dreams; they became realities through collaboration and strategic planning. Barbara's relentless pursuit of a socially just world shaped us all. I owe her so much. I will miss her dearly."

Dawn Hunter, Ph.D., Professor of Teaching (Retired):

"Barb was a brilliant scholar, role model, and mentor. She was a fierce advocate for both public and global education, encouraging curiosity, collaboration, bravery, and integrity. Barb always made time for colleagues, whether for advice, friendship, or laughter. She will be greatly missed."

James G. Brown, Ph.D., Professor, Instructional Faculty, Department of Peace and Justice Studies:

"Barbara's work defined many of the norms and dynamics of the School of Education. Her ideas about the deep structure of society deeply influenced my teaching. She was a dear friend and a most valued colleague, whose contributions I will always cherish."

Suzanne SooHoo, Professor Emerita, Attallah College of Educational Studies:

"Barbara was a Dean, mentor, and friend. She exhibited passion and commitment to public education and leadership grounded in caring, collaboration, and community. As a mentor, she laid out growth plans for each of us. As a friend, she nourished us with her delicious casseroles and social gatherings. She was the wind beneath my wings in academia."

Anaida Colon Muniz, Professor Emerita, Attallah College of Educational Studies:

"Barbara was an icon when I arrived at Chapman 25 years ago. Her legacy was evident, and her commitment to social justice served as an enduring example. She was always there to offer advice and support. Her dedication to education and love for her late husband and family were inspirational. It is hard to imagine a world without Barbara, but she left a lasting impact."

Barbara Benham Tye's life was defined by purpose, commitment, and love. Her legacy will endure through her significant contributions to education and the profound influence she had on the Chapman community and beyond.

In the concluding line of her book, *Truda's Boots*, she wrote, “Altogether an extremely satisfactory day.” It is fitting to say that Barbara's life journey was filled with many extraordinarily fulfilling and impactful days.

May she rest in peace.