

Richard Allen Soloway

Richard Allen Soloway, Eugen Merzbacher Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, died May 11, 2009, at home, of metastatic melanoma.

Dr. Soloway was a leading scholar of British history and an administrator who taught at UNC for 41 years and served as chair of the department of history, senior associate dean for the social and behavioral sciences, and as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Richard Soloway was born March 4, 1934 in Boston, Mass. He majored in journalism at the University of Iowa, working as a stringer for the Associated Press and becoming editor of the Daily Iowan. A skilled pilot, he served as a member of the U.S. Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

In 1960 Soloway completed his doctorate in European history at the University of Wisconsin and was called to active duty in the Air Force, where he served as an instructor and pilot at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. In 1962 he joined the University of Michigan faculty and in 1968 was recruited to the UNC-CH history department, where he spent the rest of his life teaching, becoming an internationally recognized scholar and serving the university in numerous positions.

His enthusiasm for British history was contagious, and he displayed a deep commitment to excellence in higher education and personal integrity in public service. He was an avid art collector, an amateur musician, a baseball fan and gardener. He was a competitive sailor and recently returned to flying via highly detailed computer simulators.

Dick spent his final months cared for at home by his wife of 19 years, surrounded by colleagues, friends, and family. He took particular joy in the recent arrival of his grandson Nicholas.

Professor Soloway is survived by his wife, Leslie Banner of Chapel Hill; son Colin Soloway and his wife Emily Hodges of Washington, D.C.; son Dan Frank and his wife Debra of San Carlos, Calif.; grandchildren Nicholas Soloway and Arielle Frank; stepdaughter Stephanie Dawson and husband Kenneth White of Baton Rouge, La.; sisters Elaine Pincus of Boynton Beach, Fla., and Carol Gray of Sarasota, Fla. He was preceded in death by a sister, Sylvia Larson, and parents Alec Soloway and Irene Laurie.

A memorial service was held in Person Hall on the UNC campus on May 18. Memorial donations may be designated to the Richard A. Soloway Fund in the Program in the Humanities and Human Values at UNC, [www.unc.edu/depts/human/index.shtml](http://www.unc.edu/depts/human/index.shtml), or call 962-4388.