

Memorial Minute in honor of Nola Reinhardt
Read by Robert Buchele, at the October 28, 2015 Faculty Meeting

Nola received her BA from the University of Connecticut, graduating in 1968 Phi Beta Kappa and summa cum laude in Mathematics. After a seven-year stint working as a programmer and systems analyst, Nola – pursuing her true calling – began graduate studies in Economics at U.C. Berkley. She received her PhD in Economics and began teaching at Smith in 1981.

Nola undertook her dissertation research on peasant agriculture in rural Colombia (Her love of the country eventually led Nola and her husband Richard to adopt two daughters from Colombia: Amalia and Elena.) At Smith Nola moved on to research land reform in El Salvador and Nicaragua and then to studies of export-led development strategies in Thailand, Malaysia and Chile. This work, beginning with her dissertation, won three prestigious awards from the New England Council on Latin American Studies and culminated in Nola becoming co-editor of an impactful special issue of the highly ranked journal *World Development* and then a book volume.

Nola was active in the Latin American Studies program from the time of her arrival at Smith and was a founding member of the Third World Development Studies Program (later to become known as the Global South Development Studies Program). Nola served as director of the program for many years and gave it up only upon her retirement from teaching. That program has served an important role in allowing students from various majors who are interested in development issues to put together a coherent series of courses in what is by nature a very interdisciplinary field.

Nola's classes in Economic Development and World Food System were two of the department's most popular and heavily enrolled courses. The latter was particularly popular with non-majors, and many of us have heard from students that it drew them to the major by showing the relevance of economics to real world problems. Despite very large enrollments, Nola made writing an important component of both courses and spent endless hours working with students on their research papers.

Nola ably served her stint as department chair, as it turned out, during a difficult period of transition for the department. She served on every department committee and was always available for the special request when something needed to be done. Nola served her colleagues, as well as her students, far beyond the call of duty.

In a decidedly heterodox and predominantly liberal economics department, Nola still lined up to the left of most of us. She took strong positions in sometimes heated discussions, but she always argued her case with poise and good grace.

On a final personal note, I have to tell those of you who knew Nola personally about the music that was a big part of her memorial service at the Unitarian church in Northampton on Aug. 1. I'm sure the music was selected by Nola and Richard together, and I believe that it speaks to Nola's political commitments and personal sentiments and to who she was as a person. The songs that came home with me that day – and will always bring Nola to mind – were Woody Guthrie's labor anthem *Union Maid*, Gordon Lightfoot's melancholic *Early Morning Rain* and Bob Dylan's exuberant, over-the-top love song, *But Not for You*.