

In Memoriam

Joyce Shriver, Ph.D.



Joyce Shriver, Ph.D., died on October 27, 2004, at the age of 67, after a long illness. She is survived by two brothers, Victor Shriver, Jr., and Gene Shriver, and one sister, Carol Carlberg. A memorial service was held at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church on December 5, 2004.

After receiving her Ph.D. in anatomy from the University of Kansas and completing her postdoctoral training in neuroanatomy at the Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, Joyce joined the faculty of the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in 1968, at approximately the same time the school enrolled its first students. Over the years, Joyce was praised by her students for her uncommon commitment and concern and honored with several awards for excellence in teaching. Her legendary courses in neuroanatomy were among the most rigorously and comprehensively taught in the basic science curriculum. In recent years, Joyce developed an outstanding series of neuroanatomy slides to make this difficult subject easier to master.

In addition to her distinguished teaching service, Joyce excelled in the role of Associate Dean for Student Affairs, taking primary responsibility for medical students in their basic science years. In her twenty-five-year administrative tenure, she worked tirelessly to improve the educational experience of Mount Sinai's medical students.

Joyce demonstrated her commitment to both teaching and counseling by developing special—and sometimes unique—programs. With Dr. Hillel Swiller, she developed a student well-being curriculum, which was cited by the American Medical Student Association when presenting its first national Excellence in Medical Education Award to the school. She also assisted in the development of the Cultural Diversity in Medicine program, an elective designed to enhance the cultural awareness of students providing patient care.

Among the other programs under Joyce's direction were an annual book award ceremony, the Patricia Levinson Summer Fellowship Program and a monthly pre-clinical course director's meeting designed to enhance the quality of education in the pre-clinical years. She served on numerous committees, including some of the more challenging ones in the school, such as the Promotions Committee, the Harassment Committee, and the Student Health Committee.

Adventurous and well rounded, Joyce was an active member of several local organizations outside of Mount Sinai, serving on the boards of directors of the Morningside Garden Club and the Jean Cocteau Repertory.

A tribute by the Mount Sinai Alumni Association remembered Joyce as "a thoughtful, empathetic dean and teacher who truly understood the struggles of the young physicians she taught and advised.... Her wisdom, judgment, generous spirit, and constant presence were an inspiration to all who knew her. Having served the School with unwavering loyalty and devotion for thirty-five years, she leaves a legacy of excellence and caring that her colleagues, students, and friends will always treasure."

Committed to the very highest academic standards, Joyce was an exceptionally strong student advocate and a brilliant teacher whose influence remains palpable. In mourning her passing, the Mount Sinai School of Medicine community recognizes her singular contributions to its curriculum and student life.

Barry Stimmel, M.D.

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