

Farewell, Warren Hall

In 1955, construction was completed on Warren Hall, which became home to the School of Public Health. It was named in honor of the chief justice of the United States and former governor of California, Earl Warren, whose commitment to social justice and the public good are hallmarks of the School's ongoing work.

Now, 54 years later, the seismically unsafe building is being vacated in preparation for demolition in early 2008. The campus has received donor support to build the Li Ka Shing Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences on the Warren Hall site. This new facility will house teaching and research focused on the fundamental molecular mechanisms underlying human health and disease. It will include programs in cancer biology, infectious disease, neuroscience, and stem cell research, among others—but it will not serve as a replacement home for the school.

Plans are under way to establish a new home for the School of Public Health nearby. The University has acquired the property bordered by Oxford Street, Hearst Street, Shattuck Street, and Berkeley Way, where the former Department of Health Services

building—also seismically unsafe—still stands. The Chancellor has expressed his support for a new building for the School of Public Health to be erected on that site, serving as an anchor for a new Community Health Campus, which may also include the School of Optometry, the clinical portion of the Psychology Department, and part of the Helen Wills Neuroscience Institute. The School will soon be embarking on a major capital campaign to secure the necessary funds for the new building.

In the meantime, University Hall (across the street from the current Warren Hall) will serve as the School's interim home, housing the library, administrative and student services, and most of the School's non-wet-lab faculty. Wet-lab faculty will be located in Barker, Hildebrand, and Koshland Halls.

Watch for updates on the status of the School's plans for the new building in future issues of *UC Berkeley Public Health*.

THE SCHOOL HONORS ITS PAST

On May 4, 2007, many of the School's students, alumni, staff, and current and former faculty came together to pay tribute to the School and share



reminiscences at an event titled "Honoring Our Past, Creating Our Future: A Celebration of the School of Public Health and Its History in Warren Hall." The program included presentations by **Chancellor Robert Birgeneau**, who addressed the campus's commitment to securing a new home for the School; **Dean Stephen Shortell**; former deans **Warren Winkelstein** and **Patricia Buffler**; and four of the School's distinguished alumni: Alameda County Health Department director **Tony Iton, M.D., J.D., M.P.H. '97**, California Dept. of Health Services director **Sandra Shewry, M.S.W., M.P.H. '81**, UCSF professor **Nancy Padian, Ph.D. '87, M.P.H. '83**, and CDC director **Julie Gerberding, M.D., M.P.H. '90** (who delivered her greeting by video). Longtime staff member **Abbie Smith** and student representative **Alberto Ortega** also shared their thoughts on the occasion.

Photos and a webcast of this historic event can be viewed at sph.berkeley.edu/gallery/06-07/honoring.html.

- 1 The soon-to-be-demolished Warren Hall was home to the School of Public Health from 1955 to 2007.
- 2 At a special event to commemorate the School's history in Warren Hall, former dean Joyce Lashof (left) and Lucy Johns, M.P.H. '67, talk with Anthony Iton, M.D., J.D., M.P.H. '97.
- 3 Dean Stephen Shortell and former dean Joyce Lashof were two of four deans present for the occasion.
- 4 Former dean Warren Winkelstein (left) and Chancellor Robert Birgeneau listen to opening remarks by Dean Shortell.



5 UC Berkeley Chancellor (later UC president) Clark Kerr presided over the dedication of Earl Warren Hall on September 17, 1955.

6 The Public Health Library was located on the ground floor of Warren Hall.

7 Public health students spent many hours in the Anita Baldwin Auditorium.

8 Before the construction of Warren Hall, laboratory courses were held in the Life Sciences Building.

