

## ***Sandra C. Smith***

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### **Tell us a little about the work you've done at Emory throughout your career.**

In 1992, I joined the Rollins School of Public Health as an administrative assistant to the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs to help with the preparation of the school's first accreditation. In 1993, I joined Dr. Reynaldo Martorell as an administrative assistant and then in 1997, Dr. Martorell became Chair of the Department of Global Health, and I became the Department Manager. As a team we helped transform the Department of International Health to the current Hubert Department of Global Health. When Dr. Martorell stepped down from his role as chair, I decided to join him, and currently serve as the research project coordinator supervisor for the nutrition unit of the Global Health department.

### **What are some of your favorite memories of your time at Emory?**

When I started working at the School of Public Health, new staff were assigned a "buddy" to acclimate them to Emory's administrative system. My buddy was Ms. Lisa Simmons, and after 30 years, Lisa remains one of my closest and dearest friends. Also, I was fortunate to meet Ms. Shari Siegmund who was the academic program coordinator at the time. Shari recommended to the then Dean, Ray Greenberg, that I meet the new faculty, Dr. Reynaldo Martorell, who was joining the Department of International Health (formerly the Center for International Health). From that point forward, Shari and I remained friends even after her retirement from Emory.

### **What are some of the most significant changes you have witnessed over the course of your career?**

The implementation of technology has truly advanced many processes that were previously done by paper. For example, submitting an NIH proposal required extensive time and manual labor. Today, we can submit the same proposal electronically and it is received by NIH almost instantaneously.

### **Is there anything you miss from "back in the day"?**

The camaraderie and faculty/staff team spirit.

### **What do you hope for the future of Emory?**

I hope that the language used to describe Emory's goals and successes automatically include staff. Too many publications across the university state "faculty and students" instead of "faculty, staff and students". Especially as values and commitments have changed, it is imperative that the vernacular becomes more inclusive.

### **Anything else you would like to share?**

With wonderful support and encouragement from Dr. Martorell, I was able to receive my Juris Masters from Emory Law School. This advanced degree introduced me to a myriad of opportunities. I am truly thankful to the University for providing this wonderful program. Finally, I feel very fortunate that my tenure at Emory has been with the Rollins School of Public Health. To see first-hand how these brilliant minds are shaped to serve the public's health is encouraging for our future. And to see the faculty and staff work with commitment and compassion toward the outcome is truly rewarding.