

COLUMBIA SPECTATOR ARCHIVE

Columbia Daily Spectator, Volume CXVI, Number 4, 21 January 1992 — CU professor dies from AIDS at 38 years of age [ARTICLE]

CU professor dies from AIDS at 38 years of age

By Benjamin Strong
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John L. Martin, an associate professor in the School of Public Health and a pioneering AIDS researcher, died of the disease on Friday in Los Angeles.

Martin, who continued working until the final days of his illness, was 38.

He began an annual follow-up survey of New York City homosexual men in 1982, soon after the first cases of AIDS appeared. The project was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health and studied the psychosocial and behavioral effects of AIDS.

The study has produced more than 20 papers in professional journals and is a model for other studies on AIDS.

“He was an intense and scrupulously

honest person in his work. He cared about what he was doing,” said Laura Dean, associate research scientist in the School of Public Health and a friend of Martin.

“The [AIDS] epidemic obviously had more meaning to him than someone who didn’t have it. Not only did he lose friends and lovers,

he himself was infected," Dean said.

Martin received an award for outstanding achievement by the American Psychological Association in 1990. He was twice a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University and last year won a five-year research grant from the National Institute of Mental Health.

He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of California at Berkeley, a doctorate in psychology from the City University of New York, and later, a master's degree from the School of Public Health.

Martin is survived by his companion, his parents, three sisters, and three brothers.