



TEXAS A&M

HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 2, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: All HSC Faculty, Staff and Students

SUBJECT: Dr. K. C. Donnelly

It is with great sadness that we announce our dear friend and colleague Dr. KC Donnelly passed away last night with his family at his side. KC put up a valiant fight but finally lost his 18 month battle with esophageal cancer. For those of you who did not know KC well, he was an idea man who finished the tasks at hand. He worked closely with Dr. Dickey on a community presentation scheduled last night at Christ United Methodist Church in College Station. The presentation, attended by a large crowd, provided reflections of two scientist/clinicians personally exposed to cancer. Dr. Donnelly mused this past Monday about how he had not realized this before, but his 30 year career actually pointed toward this final lecture. While he was disappointed in not being able to deliver his final address in person, we were fortunately able to tape the talk from his hospital bed with the support of the staff at the College Station Medical Center last Friday. Following the presentation and with his family back at his side, our colleague gave up the good fight at 9 PM Wednesday night.

The School of Rural Public Health and the Texas A&M Health Science Center have been blessed by his contributions to our fabric. After a 20 year career at Texas A&M University, Dr. Donnelly joined the new school and health science center at their inception and helped build both institutions from the foundation up. His imprint will remain with us and those who follow in our footsteps for decades to come. His students are among the most devoted anywhere. They too will undoubtedly carry his work with them as they undertake their professional careers.

He has left us with a few major missions to complete. Those now become our collective charge. The coming days and weeks will be difficult but we are all blessed to have known him. We will miss him dearly. He was truly a remarkable colleague and friend.

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