

Remembering Mike Bigelow

Mike Bigelow, Assistant General Counsel at Eli Lilly, passed away earlier this month of complications from pancreatic cancer. He was not quite 42 years old.

It was early last month that Mike traveled to Washington, D.C. to deliver a presentation at a conference co-sponsored by this newsletter. At the time, it was hard to look at Mike and not be reminded of Randy Pausch, the well-known author of *The Last Lecture*, who fell victim to the very same illness last year. Both were vibrant and industrious young men with three children, suddenly confronted by an illness that offers no reprieve.

Yet, despite the seeming unfairness of their fate, the word “victim” seems wholly out of place in both cases. Mike was a very decent man who faced his gravest challenge with an uncommon degree of dignity. It was impossible to watch him actively engaged in the conference and not be impressed by his endurance as well as his manner. And it was equally impossible to miss the fact that he was, as I had already gathered from previous encounters, a genuinely nice guy.

Few people have the opportunity to memorialize their lives—and their struggles—in the fashion that Randy Pausch did. But to those who knew Mike, his experience was every bit as poignant. And, by all accounts, his life appears to be every bit as well-lived.

His trip to D.C. last month, like his life, was an impressive performance. His devotion to his profession was unmistakable and can rightly be a source of pride for everybody doing the same good work. He was, in the end, what he was all along—a good man. We can all be a little better for having known him.

Memorial contributions

Mike had requested that memorial contributions be made to his children’s college education account. Please make any memorial checks payable to: CollegeChoice Advisor 529 Plan. They can be sent to: 12368 Sanderling Trace, Fishers, IN 46037.