

Interface

The University of Kansas
School of Social Welfare

Fall 1995

Special issue in memory of Liane Davis

Remembering Liane....

We are gathered to remember and celebrate the life of our friend and colleague, Liane Davis. At a time of loss such as this, it is difficult to not let sadness creep into every corner of our hearts. Not having her strong, vibrant presence nearby in our daily lives brings a sharp and persistent pain.

But today, we are going to take a page from the way Liane lived her life—right up to the end. We are not going to let ourselves drown in our sorrow, not today and not any other day.

The purple balloons that you see in this room represent each year of her 53 years. They are purple, because that was Liane's favorite color and they are balloons because we want to honor and celebrate her life.

The words that I remembered are the words of Edna St. Vincent Millay from a poem entitled *Conscientious Objector*. The words are these: "I will die but that is all I will do for death."

Liane died, but that is all she did for death. She lived her life for over a year following the diagnosis of cancer with a courage and forthrightness that would be hard to fake and extremely hard to imitate. Her strong spirit saw her through multiple rounds of chemotherapy and for most of this time, she came to work and carried on, doing all the daily things that connected her with the School.

Liane came to the faculty in 1989 from the School of Social Work at SUNY Albany. We all felt elated that we had been able to recruit her. She was already well-known to many of us through her work and writing in the area of women's issues. And we were right. Liane brought with her a vision and a steadiness and a level of commitment that quickly made her a valuable and seasoned member of our faculty.

In 1992, Liane became the Associate Dean for Academic Programs. She had responsibility for the MSW program but also for general oversight of academic programs in the School.

In many ways, Liane's career came into its own while she was at the School. There was a general blooming both personally and professionally: her scholarship grew and received increasing national recognition; her influence in the social work profession took on greater significance; her stature as a senior faculty member created a special place among her colleagues; and she and David expanded into a family with the adoption of Elia and Anthony. We all gained immeasurably from what she brought to us.

We recognize the love and respect for Liane that is present in this room today. The accomplishments of Liane's life are substantial and will live on in memory and in print. But what we will particularly cherish are our memories not of what she did but of who she was. And so we will remember her as the tough, gutsy, tell-it-like-it-is, passionate, determined, smart woman that she was.

We'll miss you, brave friend
Ann Weick



Celebration and Remembrance

Liane Davis, valued colleague, treasured teacher, associate dean of the school, died at her home October 18 of cancer. On November 2, a celebration and remembrance of Liane was held where words were spoken in her memory.

As a tribute to Liane's lifelong professional commitment to improving the lives of women, the Liane V. Davis Scholarship has been established. The scholarship will be awarded to a woman Ph.D. student who demonstrates a commitment to women's issues.

Contributions may be made to the School of Social Welfare Davis Scholarship.

Send to:
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