

# Psychology

ALUMNI  
NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2011



Craig Parks

## Voted off the island first: People don't really like unselfish colleagues

By Eric Sorensen, WSU science writer, WSU Today

You know those goody two-shoes who volunteer for every task and thanklessly take on the annoying details nobody else wants to deal with? That's right: Other people really can't stand them.

Four separate studies led by a WSU social psychologist have found that unselfish workers who are the first to throw their hat in the ring are also among those that coworkers most want to, in effect, vote off the island. "It's not hard to find examples, but we were the first to show this happens and to have explanations why," said **Craig Parks**, lead author of "The desire to expel unselfish members from the group" published in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*.

The phenomenon has implications for business work groups, volunteer organizations, nonprofit projects,

military units, and environmental efforts, an interest of Parks' coauthor and former doctoral student, **Asako Stone**. Parks and Stone found that unselfish colleagues come to be resented because they "raise the bar" for what is expected of everyone. As a result, workers feel the new standard will make everyone else look bad. "It doesn't matter that the overall welfare of the group or the task at hand is better served by someone's unselfish behavior," Parks said. "What is objectively good, you see as subjectively bad," he said.

The do-gooders also are seen as deviant rule breakers. It's as if they're giving away Monopoly money so someone can stay in the game, irking other players to no end.

The studies gave participants—introductory psychology students—

## Message from the Chair

Dear Alumni,

My extended term as department chair will be completed in June of this year. I am pleased to announce that Rebecca Craft has been selected as our next chair (see full article about Rebecca in this newsletter). Rebecca will bring great energy and enthusiasm to her role as chair, as she has done for the past few years as director of the graduate program in experimental psychology. Even in these difficult times for higher education I believe Rebecca will not be content to stand still, but will instead explore opportuni-

ties for growth and innovation for the Department of Psychology. I am confident that Rebecca will enjoy the superlative effort from faculty, staff, and graduate students in the department that I have known during my service as chair. Moreover, I am certain that in the future she will share my appreciation for the continuing support of the department by our alumni and friends. Thanks, again, and good luck to Rebecca as she leads the department forward.

—John Hinson, Professor and Chair

### Island continued from cover

pools of points that they could keep or give up for an immediate reward of meal service vouchers. Participants also were told that giving up points would improve the group's chance of receiving a monetary reward. In reality, the participants were playing in fake groups of five. Most of the fictitious four would make seemingly fair swaps of one point for each voucher, but one of the four often would make lopsided exchanges—greedily giving up no points and taking a lot of vouchers or unselfishly giving up a lot of points and taking few vouchers. Most participants later said they would not want to work with the greedy colleague again—an expected result seen in previous studies.

But a majority of participants also said they would not want to work with the unselfish colleague again. They frequently said, “The

person is making me look bad” or is breaking the rules. Occasionally, they would suspect the person had ulterior motives. Parks said he would like to look at how the do-gooders themselves react to being rejected. While some may indeed have ulterior motives, he said it's more likely they actually are working for the good of an organization. Excluded from the group, they may say, “enough already” and simply give up. “But it's also possible,” he said, “that they may actually try even harder.”

Dr. Parks' research was featured in the August 19, 2010, issue of *The Economist*. You can also find the original research paper, “The desire to expel unselfish members from the group” by Craig Parks and Asako Stone in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, Volume 99(2), pages 303-310.

## Focus on Faculty

### The Department Welcomes New Chair



In June 2011, **Rebecca Craft** formally begins her term as chair of the Department of Psychology. Rebecca joined the faculty at WSU in 1993. Her impressive research program on sex differences in the psychopharmacology of opioids and the gonadal steroid modulation of pain, analgesia, and mood was featured in this newsletter in 2003.

As a faculty member, Rebecca has earned a reputation as a gifted teacher, mentor, and leader. She has taught 13 different courses in psychology, neuroscience, and zoology. To date, she has mentored 34 graduate students to degree completion. She routinely works with 3-8 undergraduate research assistants in her laboratory each semester. In recognition of her mentoring and leadership, Rebecca has been the recipient of numerous academic awards, including the Honors College Faculty Thesis Advisor of the Year (2009) and Women's Leadership Forum Research Faculty Mentor of the Year Award (2009). Most recently, Rebecca was honored with the WSU Faculty Woman of Distinction Award (2010). This award recognizes “a woman who has

distinguished herself in her career, academic work, leadership, public service, or any combination thereof; and who has contributed to the personal growth and success of others, especially women, through education, research, or public or volunteer service above and beyond her expected job responsibilities.”

Throughout her career, Rebecca has advocated for policies that improve the lives of her colleagues. As the president of the Association for Faculty Women (AFW), Rebecca organized a faculty mentoring workshop. She was also one of the key architects of the new chair's evaluation form recently adopted by the Office of the Provost for use across the entire university. As the director of the graduate program in experimental psychology, Rebecca implemented a new faculty development workshop series and promoted improved mentoring of junior faculty. In 2011, Rebecca was awarded a department development mini-grant from the WSU ADVANCE EXCELinSE Center. This grant, entitled “Enhancing Cross-Campus Climate and Collaboration,” will support travel between Vancouver and Pullman for approximately six faculty from each campus this year.

## Awards, Recognitions, Appointments, and Grants

**Len Burns** (professor) was elected a fellow in Division 5, Measurement, Evaluation, and Statistics, of the American Psychological Association.

**Maureen Schmitter-Edgcombe's** (professor) and Diane Cook's (professor, electrical engineering and computer science) grant "Smart environment technologies for health assessment and assistance" received funding from the National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering. Maureen, along with co-principal investigator **Dennis Dyck** (WSU Spokane professor) was also awarded a grant from the Alzheimer's Association to examine the efficacy of a multi-family cognitive rehabilitation intervention for the treatment of individuals with mild cognitive impairment and their care partners. Finally, Maureen, Dennis, and **Bruce Wright** (clinical associate professor) received funding from the WSU Berry Family CLA Faculty Excellence Fellows for "Biomarkers, caregiving and a multi-dyad cognitive rehabilitation intervention."

**Brendan Walker's** (assistant professor) grant, "Role of central kappa-opioid receptors in altered ultrasonic vocalizations as a measure of depressive affect induced by addictive drugs" was funded by the Hope for Depression Research Foundation.

**Katie Witkiewitz** (WSU Vancouver assistant professor) was awarded four grants in 2010 to support her research on behavioral treatments for smoking and alcohol use disorders: "Emergence of adolescent substance use problems from the externalizing spectrum" funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse; "BASICS-ED: A momentary intervention for concurrent smoking and heavy drinking" funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; "Relationships among interpersonal stress, affect regulation, and alcohol lapse" funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism; and "Technology-enhanced quitline services to prevent smoking relapse" funded by the National Cancer Institute.

**John Wright** (professor) was named a Regents Professor, the highest recognition given to WSU faculty. Dr. Wright was also recognized for his 35 years of service to WSU.

## Presentations and Publications

**Len Burns** (professor) and his colleagues, Mirella Di Benedetto (RMIT University), Helen Lindner (La Trobe University), and Stephen Kent (La Trobe University) published a paper titled "A biopsychosocial model for depressive symptoms following acute coronary syndromes" in the journal *Psychology and Health*.

**Maureen Schmitter-Edgcombe** (professor) gave an invited presentation, titled "The future of aging in place: Merging psychology and technology to help us live independently longer," as part of WSU's continuing Innovators Lecture Series in Seattle on December 8, 2010, at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel. Maureen and **Scott Creamer** (doctoral student) published a paper titled "Assessment of strategic processing during narrative comprehension in individuals with mild cognitive impairment" in the *Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society*. Maureen also coauthored "Mild cognitive impairment and feeling-of-knowing in episodic memory" with Jonathan W. Anderson (Eastern Washington University). It was published in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. Finally, Maureen presented a paper titled "Discovering and tracking activities of daily living using smart environment technologies" at the annual meeting of the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry in Savannah, Georgia. This paper was coauthored by P. Rashida, D. Cook, and L. Holder.

**Paul Strand** (WSU Tri-Cities associate professor) and S. Cerna published a paper titled "The effects of a data dissemination strategy on the letter naming and object counting skills of preschoolers attending Head Start" in the *Journal of Behavioral Education*.

**Sarah Tragesser** (WSU Tri-Cities assistant professor) published a paper titled "Differences in illicit drug use rates among Oklahoma and non-Oklahoma Indian youth" in the journal *Substance Use & Misuse*. This paper was coauthored by F. Beauvais, P. Jumper-Thurman, and M. Burnside (all from Colorado State University). She also had papers published in *Psychology of Addictive Behaviors* ("Specificity of P3 event-related potential reactivity to alcohol cues in individuals low in alcohol sensitivity" coauthored by B.D. Bartholow and S.A. Lust, both from the University of Missouri) and the *Journal of Personality Disorders* ("Longitudinal associations in Borderline Personality Disorder Features: Diagnostic Interview for Borderlines-Revised (DIB-R) scores over time" coauthored by M. Solhan, W.C. Brown, R.L. Tomko, C. Bagge, and T.J. Trull, all from the University of Missouri).



## Student News

### Accomplishments and Awards

*The following students successfully defended their master's thesis in 2010:*

**Wendi Benson, Erin Bobeck, Rachel Jones, Christina Low, Sharon Sowell, Kimberly Tsutsui, and Lora Wu.**

*The following students successfully defended their doctoral dissertations in 2010:*

**Joni Howard, Lisa Howell, Mercedes Lavoy, Alison Matthews, Paul Mattson, Sterling McPherson, Robert Packer, Alicia Rueda, Jennifer Self, Matt Wiediger, Marcia Wilson, and Dina Wirick.**

*The following undergraduate students, working under the direction of **Brendan Walker** (assistant professor) were awarded fellowships to support their research efforts:*

**Alexander W. Smith** ('10 B.S. psychology) WSU Department of Psychology Spring Undergraduate Research Grant, WSU Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Spring Research Fellowship, WSU James A. Weir Undergraduate Research Fellowship, and WSU Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Summer Research Fellowship

**Daniel J. Reiss** (senior, psychology) WSU Pharmacology and Toxicology Program 2010 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship for his project titled "Alterations in Affective Behavior Produced by Ethanol Dependence"

**Alexa S. Powell** (senior, psychology) WSU Pharmacology and Toxicology Program 2010 Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship for her project titled "Establishing a Novel Animal Model of Escalated Heroin Self-Administration"

**Rachel Jones** (doctoral student) was awarded a GPSA Graduate Travel Grant and Registration Grant to present at the Annual Convention of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

**Kathryn A. Nealey** ('10 B.S. psychology) was the recipient of the WSU Undergraduate Research Award from the Office of Undergraduate Research for the outstanding oral presentation of her research project titled "Site-specific antagonism of kappaopioid receptors attenuates the excessive alcohol self-administration associated with dependence." This work was completed under the direction of Brendan Walker (assistant professor).

**Kevin Feiszli** (senior, psychology) and **Daniel J. Reiss** (senior, psychology) received prestigious 2010 Auvil Fellowships for Undergraduate Research from the WSU Office of Undergraduate Research.

**Lisa Howell** ('10 Ph.D. psychology) accepted a two-year Clinical Health Psychology postdoctoral (50% research, 50% clinical) position at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

**Mercedes Lavoy** ('10 Ph.D. psychology) accepted a two-year postdoctoral position at Brooke Army Medical Center at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio in the Warrior Resiliency Program/Trauma, Risk, and Resiliency fellowship.

**Alicia Rueda** ('10 Ph.D. psychology) accepted a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in Clinical Neuropsychology at UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Research Center.

*The following clinical doctoral students received the following internship positions:*

**Virginia Ferent:** SUNY Upstate Medical University, Syracuse, New York, Adult Track

**Kimberly Lanni:** VA Northern CA Health Care, Martinez, California, Neuropsychology

**Zack Tollman:** Pacific University School of Professional Psychology, Psych internship

**Brandi Young Whitaker:** Southeastern Idaho Predoctoral Consortium, Pocatello Idaho, Forensic

**Leah Zulas** (doctoral student) was awarded an IGERT Fellowship in 2010.



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## Presentations and Publications

**Scott Creamer** (doctoral student) and Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor) had a paper published in *Neuropsychology* titled “Narrative comprehension in Alzheimer’s disease: Assessing inferences and memory operations with a think-aloud procedure.” Scott also presented a poster titled “WAIS-III performances of adult ADHD and clinical controls” at the 40th annual meeting of the National Academy of Neuropsychology in Vancouver, British Columbia. It was coauthored by **Ivana Reynold-Boyle** (’09 B.S. psychology) and Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe.

**Kate Geiger** (doctoral student) and **Paul Kwon** (professor) published a paper titled “Rumination and depression: Evidence for the moderating role of hope” in the journal *Personality and Individual Differences*.

**Dana Grip** (doctoral student) will present a paper titled “Translating ADHD animal models to humans models using a computer game” at the 2011 annual meeting of the Association for Behavior Analysis International in Denver, Colorado. This paper is coauthored by Paul Strand (WSU Tri-Cities associate professor).

**Carolyn Parsey** (masters student; ’09 B.S. psychology; ’09 B.A. sociology) presented a paper titled “Monitoring activity with actigraph and motion-sensor data in a smart environment” at the seventh annual work conference of the International Society for Gerontechnology in Vancouver, CA. This paper was coauthored by R. Srinivasan, Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor), and Diane Cook. Carolyn also presented “Sleep/wake patterns in mild cognitive impairment: A preliminary study of sleep disturbance in transitional cognitive decline” at the 24th annual meeting of the Associated Professional Sleep Societies in San Antonio, Texas. This paper was coauthored by Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe, L. Foltz, N. Hansen, D. Cook, and Gregory Belenky (director and research professor for the WSU Spokane Sleep and Performance Research Center).

**Kathryn A. Nealey** (’10 B.S. psychology),

**Alexander W. Smith** (’10 B.S. psychology), Seth M. Davis (doctoral student), Daniel G. Smith (Lundbeck Research, USA), and Brendan Walker (assistant professor) will publish a paper titled “ $\kappa$ -opioid receptors are implicated in the increased potency of intra-accumbens nalmefene in ethanol-dependent rats” in the journal *Neuropharmacology*.

**Adrianna Seeyle** (doctoral student) presented a poster titled “Cueing technologies for assisting persons with mild cognitive impairment in IADL completion in an experimenter-assisted smart environment” at the 40th annual meeting of the National Academy Neuropsychology in Vancouver, British Columbia. This paper was coauthored by A. Smith, Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe, and C.J. Cook. Adrianna also published a paper titled “Episodic memory predictions in persons with amnesic and non-amnesic mild cognitive impairment” in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. This paper was coauthored by Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe and J. Flores.

**Geetika Singla** (’09 M.S. computer science), Diane Cook (professor, electrical engineering and computer science), and Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor) published “Recognizing independent and joint activities among multiple residents in smart environments” in the *Journal of Ambient Intelligence and Humanized Computing*.

**Fran Shipp’s** (doctoral student) thesis, titled “Construct validity of ADHD-IN, ADHD-HI, ODD toward adults, social and academic competence with teacher ratings of Thai adolescents” was published in the *Journal of Psychopathology and Behavioral Assessment*.







## Celebrating a Great Colleague and Friend

This spring, **Thomas Brigham** will retire from a distinguished career in teaching, research, and scholarship. Tom received his bachelor of science degree in psychology from the University of Washington in 1964 and went on to complete both his masters and doctoral degrees in child psychology at the University of Kansas in 1968 and 1970, respectively. He spent two years as an assistant professor at New York University before joining WSU in 1972, where he remained for the rest of his career, rising to the rank of professor of psychology in 1979.

To date, Tom has authored more than fifty papers and seven books. He has given numerous presentations at regional, national, and international conferences. His research has been supported by multiple funding agencies, including the National Institute of Health, the Department of Education, and the State of Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board. Tom is a fellow of both the American Psychological Association and the Association for Behavior Analysis International. His numerous honors include the Association for Behavior Analysis Outreach Award (1992), WSU College of Liberal Arts Mullen Award for Excellence in Teaching (1998), College of Liberal Arts Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award (1999), and WSU

Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award for Instruction (2003).

Upon hearing of Tom's plans for retirement, Alan Grossman, professor of psychology at the University of Mississippi and one of Tom's former graduate students, shared the following:

"Knowing Tom for so long, I thought writing about Tom's achievements would be easy. There is much to note. I can mention his conceptual contributions in the area of the experimental analysis of behavior (e.g., self-management), or his applied behavior analysis work (e.g., teaching technology, academic retention among underrepresented students, reducing risky health behaviors). But as everybody who has spent time in Tom's lab learns, there are immediate and delayed consequences for behavior, and a response producing a small immediate reward may also be associated with a future larger delayed aversive consequence. Writing about one of my heroes turns out to be harder than I initially imagined, primarily because simply reflecting on his scholarship wouldn't adequately capture the impact of his career. In order to recognize fully his contributions I need to try to put into words the effect he has on his students, colleagues, and community.

“As a mentor, Tom not only teaches one how to be a scientist, but he also helps students understand and embrace the personal and social importance of critical thinking and holding a scientific worldview. The values of honesty, respect, and humanity are encouraged. Students leave Tom’s lab wanting to make the world a better place and having the foundational skills to work towards that goal.

“Tom is an exceptionally effective mentor for many reasons. First and foremost may be that his behavior reflects the scientific values he teaches. Tom does not approach graduate and undergraduate teaching with a ‘one size fits all’ plan. While his students all achieve the same academic milestones, the academic training pathways they follow are individually tailored to their needs, based on their initial presenting proficiencies. Tom displays great patience, understanding, and inexhaustible supportiveness as he works to shape the requisite skill set the student will need to pursue his or her professional goals. Tom’s great listening skills, acceptance, and supportiveness are invaluable to students as they wrestle with the personal growth issues that occur during graduate school.

“For me, the best illustration of Tom’s ability to work his mentor magic to impart scientific values is found in his use of the expression, ‘Shaping is a slow process.’ Over the years he said this to me countless

times. I remember him using it when I was an undergraduate peer instructor trying to figure out how to respond to students who were unresponsive to programmed instruction. As a graduate student, he said it as I was learning to conceptualize and conduct research, and to become a proficient lecturer. He used the expression when I was developing my writing skills, although for this one he should have said that shaping will be an excruciating and never ending process. He also said it to me when I was grappling with nonacademic life challenges. Over the course of our interactions I came to understand that ‘shaping is a slow process’ simply meant you have the ability and skills to address this issue, so use them.

“As I sat at the computer organizing my thoughts for this note I received a phone call from a friend and former student of 25 years ago. He was calling to catch up and wish me a happy new year. We were discussing his daughters and the challenges of being parents to children who are in the early stages of adulthood when he said, ‘You’re a dad, you know, shaping is a slow process.’ Apparently I am not the only one who hears that expression when Tom is not around to say it. Tom’s scholarly contributions are noteworthy, but even more important has been his impact on his students and colleagues.”

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## Alumni News

**Claude Blair** ('70 psychology) of Vancouver, Washington, retired in 2010 after 38 years at the Clark County, Washington, Juvenile Court as a probation counselor and the court’s diagnostic coordinator.

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**Erika Fielding** ('05 B.A. sociology; '06 B.S. psychology) of Mount Vernon, Washington, will receive an MBA from Marylhurst University in June 2010.

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**James Hutchinson’s** ('09 Ph.D. psychology) doctoral dissertation, titled “Neuroticism and cardiovascular response in women: Evidence of effects on blood pressure recovery” was published in the *Journal of Personality*. It was coauthored by Dr. John M. Ruiz. Dr. Hutchinson is currently a clinical psychologist with the Trillium Health Centre West Toronto Specialty Hand Program.

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**Shital Pavawalla** ('09 Ph.D. psychology) presented a paper titled “Prospective memory following moderate to severe traumatic brain injury: A formal multinomial modeling approach” at the 38th annual meeting of the International Neuropsychological Society in Acapulco, Mexico. This paper was coauthored by Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe (professor), R.E. Smith, R. Auger, S. Green, J. Summerville, and H. Pooni.

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**Joanne Dunn Smith** ('80 psychology) is a senior contract specialist at Battelle in Richland. Joanne worked for Westinghouse for 19 years and Fluor Federal Services for 12 years supporting projects including Hanford, FEMA, AFCAP, and LOGCAP. Currently she places and administers large construction and technical service contracts.

**Matthew J. Wright** ('06 Ph.D. psychology), Maureen Schmitter-Edgecombe, and **Ellen Woo** ('06 Ph.D. psychology) published a paper titled “Verbal memory impairment in severe closed-head injury: The role of encoding and consolidation” in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. These authors, along with M. Mikael, also presented a paper titled “Verbal memory impairment in severe closed-head injury: The role of encoding and consolidation” at the 21st annual meeting of the American Neuropsychiatric Association in Tampa, Florida.

### We Would like to Hear from You

We are very interested in hearing from our alumni. You can find us at [www.wsu.edu/psychology](http://www.wsu.edu/psychology). Just click on the Alumni and Friends link. This site provides information relevant to alumni. You may view the alumni newsletter online, submit your news for future newsletters, and obtain information about how to make a financial contribution to the Department of Psychology or the College of Liberal Arts. Please take a moment to visit us online at [www.wsu.edu/psychology](http://www.wsu.edu/psychology). We look forward to hearing from you.



## *In Memoriam*

It is with tremendous sadness that we report the passing of **James (Jim) Dudley Dougan** on October 12, 2010, at the age of 52. Jim earned his doctoral degree at WSU in 1985, working under the direction of Frances McSweeney. He went on to complete a postdoctoral fellowship at Indiana University. In 1989, he joined the faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University where he rose to the rank of professor of psychology and remained until his death.

In reflecting on Jim's passing, Fran wrote:

"I remember when I first met Jim. He was a student at Whitman College. I went to Whitman to give a colloquium and the rest is history. We hit it off from the very beginning. It seems like just a few days ago that Jim came to Pullman as a graduate student. I remember what a popular teacher he was with the undergraduates from the very beginning. He was so naturally articulate, humorous, passionate, kind, and generous with his time and energy: the perfect characteristics for his chosen profession. He was also a great writer with a wide breadth of interests. The field will never again have someone who can write both about Herrnstein's Ro and about a behavioral analysis of *The Taming of the Shrew*. He loved the biological side of the field and the work of those like John Staddon who showed similar interests. He was also highly creative. I followed his work with zoo animals with great interest. Finally, I remember Jim's productivity. He and I published eleven papers together,

many in the best journals in our field. Jim never sacrificed quality for that quantity."

Fran's sentiments are shared by others. Thomas Critchfield, an assistant professor at Illinois State University, wrote:

"At Illinois Wesleyan, Jim was known as a fine teacher and a passionate advocate for undergraduates. He had diverse intellectual interests, including not only psychology but also philosophy, music, current events, and popular culture, most of which were melded in a blog he authored called 'The Hippie Professor.' Jim also was a capable scientist. Despite considerable teaching duties he found time to publish on such diverse topics as reinforcement schedule dynamics, behavioral economics, choice, neuroscience, behavioral pharmacology, and even zoo animal behavioral enrichment. Given a normal lifespan Jim might well have been remembered as one of the last true generalists."

In addition to professional success, Jim was a devoted husband and father. He is survived by his wife, Valeri Farmer-Dougan, whom he married in 1985, and his four children: Erin, Emily, James "Mac," and Ellyssa. He enjoyed good food and drink, jammin' with his band mates in their band Cross the Dog and enthusiastically discussing politics. Friends, family, and colleagues alike describe him as a passionate, kind, and caring individual who lived life to the fullest and never gave up on anyone.