

To the Dwyer Family,

Kathleen came to USC when her husband Dr. Jim Dwyer was recruited as a faculty member in the Department of Preventive Medicine. When she arrived, she quickly decided it was time for her to pursue her own doctorate and she began as a student in the program. She worked for a period of time with faculty who had interests in health promotion programs among school students and participated in publishing several academic papers. However, for her independent dissertation, she decided to pursue research on the assessment of risk factors for cardiovascular disease. This included work on imaging to assess risk, and on the role of antioxidants and tobacco use on the progression of atherosclerosis. She and her husband, Jim, secured funding from the NIH to conduct the Los Angeles Atherosclerosis Study which was continually funded from 1995 to 2005. This study led to publications in some of the top tier medical Journals including JAMA, Pediatrics, Epidemiology and the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine. After Jim's untimely death in 2005, Kathleen worked with other investigators of cardiovascular disease to continue to analyze the data that had been collected in this study. During this time, she also began teaching bachelors and masters degree students in the Department. This led to her appointment as the faculty advisor for independent field projects required of all Masters Degree Students. Along with other faculty, she supervised students in the local area but also traveled with groups of students to supervise global health practica in Panama and Spain. This work drew upon her love of working with young adults and of introducing them to the experience of cross-cultural research. She took absolute joy in meeting people of many cultures and working with them to identify health risks and find workable ways to address health problems. She will be remembered by her faculty colleagues for her compassion, her wonderful laugh, the loving and productive partnership she had with her husband, her resilience in the face of great sorrow, and her mentorship of students as they were just finding their own voice and direction.

Sincerely,

Jean Richardson