

January 2011 - A Special Message from the Director

A Community Disrupted:

A Tribute to Tana Grady-Weliky and the ELAM Community

Grady-Weliky, M.D., Tana A. 48
11/10/1962 - 01/18/2011 Tana was born in
Wuerzburg, Germany She was an associate
dean for undergraduate medical education
at OHSU. Tana is survived by her husband,
Michael Weliky; father, Charles S. Grady;
daughter, Maya Bela Weliky; and
stepmother, Terri Grady. A memorial
service will beheld at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan.
25, 2011, in St. John Fisher Catholic
Church. Arrangements by Holman-Hankins-
Bowker & Waud. *Published in The
Oregonian on January 24, 2011*



***Tana Grady-Weliky and daughter
Maya Bela Weliky, summer 2009***

It took three days for this reality to settle in for me. The evidence was clear—messages from Oregon Health and Science University, emails from her colleagues in medical education and ELAM, a tribute on a blog. But for me the news was implausible—there is no way that Tana Grady-Weliky could be here one day and gone the next. Roz, as usual, was first to have the news, and she informed the rest of the ELAM staff gently and personally. For Roz (who served with Tana on AAMC's Women in Medicine Coordinating Committee, predecessor to the current Group on Women in Medicine and Science), Director of Alumnae Relations is not just a title: this was a personal loss; each ELUM is a member of her "extended family." So while Roz grieved openly, I spent one day in disbelief, one in anger and denial, and then finally the loss settled in as truth.



***Tana Grady-Weliky MD at OHSU,
January 2010***

Why such resistance? Well, those of you who know me well, know that I am fairly persistent in my own truths and loathe to even say good-bye. (I'm a "see ya later" kind of gal!) But I think there is another reason, one related to the assumptions of this ELAM community that resists subtraction.

Here at ELAM, we hold ourselves accountable for metrics of connections and additions. Our Social Network Analysis shows prior Learning Communities and ELAM classes to be tightly knit for mentoring and advising. We count percentages of leadership positions — more than 25% of all women deans and department chairs in medicine and dentistry are ELAM alumnae — and we count member of the full ELUM community — 54 new Fellows each year and more than 700 alumnae in our force. We estimate

potential — 90-plus applications this year, more than 50 institutional sustaining members, and increasing contributions from alumnae to support our futures together. Every six months, we update a PowerPoint ELAM Showcase of alumnae and Fellow accomplishments—awards, promotions, and new leadership positions—from over the previous 18 months. The loop of ten-second portraits and titles



ELAM Community's first loss was Linda Crnic (2004), here with her Corps of Discovery Learning Community (back row, l to r: Linda Crnic, Mary Hoy, Sharon Anderson; front row, l to r: Susan Murin, Janet Lindemann, Diana Farmer, Mary Faith Marshall), Sept 2003

runs for more than 20 minutes, and we still have to trim it every six months to keep the show manageable. ELAM views its community through its growing presence.

This year, we will mark the loss of Tana Grady-Weliky in our ELAM Showcase. It will be a poignant moment each time her photo rolls into the display, a marker of a disruption in the elaborate connections of our ELAM community.

This is not the first time. On September 11, 2004, Linda Crnic died in a bicycle accident during the reunion of her Learning Community, the Corps of Discovery (Roz says they noted that they were convening in the year of the 200th anniversary of the Lewis and Clark journey and that they were all located along the trail.) The Corps came together several months later for the memorial service at the University of Colorado Denver and members returned for

annual lectureships held there in her memory.

Now, Tana's death is, once more, a reminder of how fragile our lives are. We are STRONG WOMEN we ELAMs, and yet we fall in the face of physical illness just like all other mortals. The loss of her spirit is one that will disrupt this community and remind us of how we all make contributions to the lives of others—our families, our students, our colleagues, our friends. All complex systems are affected by small changes, and this one ripples across the country as, one by one, we realize that we will not see her at this year's AAMC annual meeting in November or at the opening of our first alumnae program in December.

Tana was a leader and a friend. Like many of you, we've been touched by her grace. In our minds, she will always be greeting us with a gentle smile and offering a quiet wisdom. That memory makes me smile and makes me mindful of my own grace.

The many announcements of Tana's loss reflect the many people she touched:

- [Oregon Health and Science University](#)
- [University of Rochester](#), her former institution
- [Duke University, her medical school](#) (see Jan 20, 2011 entry; note that Duke's Psychiatry Department's current chair, Sarah "Holly" Lisanby, also is an ELUM and was a resident at Duke under Tana's supervision)
- [The American Psychiatric Association](#), her professional organization
- [Association for Women in Psychiatry](#), her professional women's organization
- [Teaneck, NJ](#), her childhood community



Tana and her then-Dean, Edward Hundert (University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry), ELAM Forum, April 2002

The ELAM community is disrupted by the loss of even a single member. And yet the loss is a gift of awareness of the strength we gain through our mutual support. It is a strength of giving and receiving that Tana knew well. Roz, Page, and I ask each of you to take a moment to remember Tana as a



**Roz Richman and Tana, IME Exhibits,
2004 AAMC, November 2004**

member of this community, to acknowledge the disruption and the gift of being connected. Whether you spend an additional ten minutes with a patient or a student, comfort a colleague, or offer a smile to an adversary, do something today to pay tribute to her quiet courage, to her grace in managing physical, family, and professional transitions. In these small acts of courage, we honor our colleague and friend, Dr. Tana Grady-Weliky.

Diane M. Magrane, MD

Director, International Center for Executive Leadership in Academics at Drexel University

Director, Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine Program at Drexel University College of Medicine

Tana's Scholarship Fund

Tana's family asks that contributions be made to the scholarship fund set up in her honor and her memory by OHSU.

Memorial gifts can be made to the Tana Grady-Weliky, MD Scholarship Fund, care of:

OHSU Foundation

1121 SW Salmon, Suite 100

Portland, OR 97205

503.228.1739

<http://www.ohsu.edu/xd/about/foundation/giving-opportunities/tana-grady-weliky.cfm>

Terri Blum Grady (Tana's step-mother) wrote: "We are learning more and more about Tana's wonderful friends. It is very comforting." If you wish to send written expressions of sympathy to the Grady-Weliky family, you can contact Cathy Villagomez at villagoc@ohsu.edu for address information or send your message to the Office of the Dean at OHSU, which can forward them:

OHSU School of Medicine

Mail code: L102

3181 SW Sam Jackson Park Road

Portland, OR 97239
