

Michael Crew died last week from pancreatic cancer. He was physically ill for only a few weeks. His death was sudden, unexpected, and a complete shock.

As you well know, he was the founder of CRRI, a distinguished professor, widely known in his field, a person who influenced regulatory policies around the world. I've attached the RBS announcement, which Jeremy fact checked. It understates the number of events he hosted by more than 100.

Personally, I will miss his dearly. We became good friends over the years. I credit him with giving me a second career, which I am enjoying.

I have so many fond images of Michael, from his distinctive, gravity defying hair to his signature body twist, smile and laughing eyes – all in preparation for his famous refrain: "The bar is open."

I saw close up how he supported and cared for others. A vivid example is about one of his contemporaries on the faculty who recently had a stroke. Michael visited him often, and kept urging him to do physical therapy so that he would be well soon.

One of my last conversations with Michael showed me his courage. He said he could deal with dying. No histrionics, no bemoaning his fate, he could deal with it.

Many people who learned of his death called or sent me emails expressing their sorrow. I propose that we compose an on-line scrapbook filled with remembrances and pictures that we can share with Hilary and the CRRI family. Please send them to the Center for Research in Regulated Industries CRRI@business.rutgers.edu.

Hilary said she prefers cards instead of flowers, and donations should be sent to support Rutgers "Dean's account" associated with Dean Lei. Her address is:

21 Somerset Avenue
Bernardsville NJ 07924

We will be planning other events in honor of Michael. I will keep you up-to-date.

Now, I want to let Jeremy have a say. He probably knows Michael longer than anyone and has worked with him closely over many years.

I started working for Michael in 2000. While he was a demanding supervisor, his requests always made sense. Michael wanted CRRI to deliver quality service. This meant timely, thoughtful, responses to important questions or problems. I believe these are practices we should all embrace and expect from others. An example Michael's commitment was the turnaround for initial decisions on *Journal of Regulatory Economics* submissions. The goal was to require referees make decisions in less than 60 days. Not only did he deliver on this goal, JRE's turnaround time got better each year. In 2013 the average response was 33 days, in 2014 it was 32 days and in 2015 it went down to 25 days.

To me it was obvious that Michael valued the interaction between different people and this showed in his research, the Journal, the books he worked on, the center's conferences and events, and in his the interaction with people involved in all of these activities. There was no better place to see this than at one of his conferences or workshops.

For this reason we have chosen a picture of Michael responding to questions during one the sessions at a past Eastern Conference. If you knew Michael you would know that the conferences were not just a place to present ideas and concepts. It was a place to share ideas, learn from one another, share feedback, and make improvements as result of engaging in such dialog.



I know that Michael will be greatly missed by at Rutgers, the Conferences, and the field in which he worked. Because he was an economist that greatly valued methodology and quantification it makes it paradox that we cannot truly quantify the how great an impact he has had.

All the best everyone,

Vic and Jeremy