

Remembering Thomas Anthony, MD



Dr. Thomas Anthony

Dr. Tom Anthony was a UW surgical resident from 1988 and graduating in 1993. He died tragically on March 24, 2012 as a result of an automobile accident. Tom was recently appointed Chief of Surgery at the Boise, Idaho VA Hospital. Previously, he had served as Vice Chairman and Professor of Surgery in

the division of surgical oncology at the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine and Chief of Surgical Service at the Veterans' Administration North Texas Health Care System. Tom is survived by his wife of 28 years, Connie Carpenter Anthony, and daughters Carly and Andie.

Dr. Anthony graduated with honors from the University of Kansas School of Medicine, completed general surgery residency at the University of Washington, a surgical oncology fellowship at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, and a Master of Science in Epidemiology at the Harvard University School of Public Health

His area of specialization was gastrointestinal oncology, and his research was published in numerous professional journals. A respected teacher and mentor, Tom was honored to receive the Laycock-Snyder Award for Outstanding Achievement in Resident Teaching at UT Southwestern Medical School multiple times. At the time of his death he was president of the national council of VA surgical chiefs, and chairman of the VA's General Surgery Advisory Board. Tom trained a generation of surgeons, many of whom became close friends (and fishing partners). In his personal life, Tom was most proud to have received the Father of the Year award from the Lake Highlands Family YMCA.

Tom had just become the Chief of Surgery at the Boise VA and the UW Surgery Department was looking forward to working with him in that capacity. His untimely death is a loss to his family, to our greater family of graduates, to surgery, and to the Veterans Administration. Our sincere condolences go to his family.

Many tributes have been received at the UW Department of Surgery from the residents he trained and trained with. Below are some of the thoughts expressed by these individuals:

"He was one of 'us.' He was my Chief Resident when I was a new intern, and he described to me who 'we' are and why it is important to be a part of 'us.' People that come together during surgical residency have a special bond, the bond that makes 'us.' Like any family, we get support, criticism, happiness, and sorrow from 'us.'" We always remember that we are connected together by a special process that was/is forged through many years of residency together." *Sam Arbabi, MD; Professor, Trauma, Burns & Critical Care, University of Washington.*

"Tom had incredible equanimity. He created near-serene calmness whether taking care of a critically injured patient or being questioned by faculty at M&M. His thoughtfulness reflected a personal commitment to achieving excellence through his thoughts, words, and actions. His leadership style made it clear that he held high expectations for everyone on his team, including himself. But when it came time for recognition of a job well done, he was the first to point out that 'it was a team effort.'

"Tom's life has taught us the value of working hard and appreciating the immeasurable aspects of life - family, friends, and meaningful conversation. We will miss him dearly." *Thomas T. Sato, M.D., Professor of Pediatric Surgery Medical College of Wisconsin (UW Surgery resident class 1995).*

"I remember Tom for his easy-going manner, clinical smarts, and ability to carry himself in the midst of chaos. He was calm in crisis, and always engaging with others. In remembering Tom now, I am thankful for sharing this time with him together many years ago, and pass on my thoughts and prayers to his family." *Henry E. Rice, MD, Division Chief, Pediatric General Surgery, Duke University Medical Center (UW resident, class of 1996).*

"Tom was quiet and steady and rock solid. He exemplified the adage that: 'Still waters run deep.' It was that aspect of his personality that impressed me the most when we were chief residents together. It's a shame that future colleagues and patients won't enjoy the benefit of his quiet confidence and genuine compassion." *Larry Kraiss, MD; Professor and Chief, Division of Vascular Surgery, University of Utah (UW Surgery resident, class of 1993).*

"Tom was absolutely dependable and reliable. You never had to ask him twice, never had to wonder if you were getting the full story from him. He was rock solid. Smart too. He had a dry, incisive, and insightful sense of humor. I always breathed a little sigh of relief when I knew he was coming onto a service. *David Magnuson, MD, Department Chair, Pediatric Surgery, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, OH (UW Surgery resident, class of 1991).*