Adam Kreiger Day Celebrates His Life

Kreiger, from Page 1
control, Shelley Kreiger said. "He made it seem like he could recover from anything," Watson said. But by June, "He decided that medical treatment wasn't going to do anything more, just let it take control."

School and the MIT community

Adam Kreiger "tried to live a completely normal life," despite his cancer, Watson said. He did not let it stop him from doing what he wanted to do. "He loved this place. He wasn't going to let sickness slow him down," DKE President Kimball D. Thurston III '94 said. He completed most of his history sophomore year classes, in addition to weekly treatments at Yale University and in- and outpatient treatment at Massachusetts General Hospital, said Shelley Kreiger.

He always wanted to leave the hospital early, "typically get out about a week before he was supposed to after a treatment," Watson said. "Adam felt that cancer was a major inconvenience in his life... but it was not who he was," Shelley Kreiger said. He had friends, school, and fun. "everything else is like you are when you are 20 years old." "Adam liked living," Shelley Kreiger added. "I don't think there's too much he didn't like."

Adam Kreiger loved the outdoors, especially the beach. "Even when he couldn't walk, he went down to the beach," Randolph said. He also loved animated Disney movies. Thurston remembered an occasion when they came back from 101 Dalmations and jumped through all the rain puddles on the way home. Last spring he had planned on starting classes, even though he was weaker. "I haven't known anybody who was more courageous than he," Randolph said.

Even though Adam Kreiger did not like special treatment, many people helped him out during his time at MIT. At DKE, some of his brothers helped him dress his open incisions, Randolph said. Some professors went to the hospital to give Adam Kreiger his final exams, he added.

The campus police often trans- ported him from DKE to MGH in his sophomore year. Patrolman Francis Kane was one officer who tried to talk with Adam and keep his spirits high. "He was the type of kid who never complained about anything."

Adam Kreiger Day

Adam Kreiger strongly believed in programs that encour- aged cancer patients "not just be recipients but active donors in fighting disease in a different way," Shelley Kreiger said. He "made you almost forget that he had the disability," and let cancer patients know that you could live a normal life.

For several years Adam Kreiger participated in the Pennsylvania Lung Aces Expeditions teen camp- ing program. He developed The Cancer Challenge, one of his summer's expeditions that involved both healthy participants and participants with cancer. "Kids had a lot to learn from each other about how to face challenges that came in front of them," whether mountains or sick- nes, Shelley Kreiger explained. Although Adam Kreiger was unable to attend the program because his condition was worsening, participants wrote to him telling him about its success.

Three days after Adam's death, the town of Trumbull held an annual swimming fund raiser, Swim Across the Sound. Instead of being held in his honor, it is now being held in his memory. Adam had participated in the fund raiser in previous years, and many people who had heard his position and his philosophy also participated in the event.

In Trumbull, in support of Swim Across the Sound, Aug. 13 is now known as Adam Kreiger Day. Also, the Kreiger family has set up an Adam Kreiger fund for cancer screening and education.

The Tech received a copy of this letter, written by Adam M. Kreiger '95 and read at his funeral.

1. Adam Kreiger, being of sound mind, and surprisingly healthy looking body for the crap I have, do request that I be remembered as I have lived, and if my life has been of any value, then people will mourn me by laughing, smiling. Don't waste time missing me. I'm at the beach — come and spend some time. Enjoy it, breathe in the salt air, celebrate the natural beauty of the ocean meeting the land. Never make me a cause for your pain, I was never an aching hole in anyone's life, nor will I ever be. Don't worry about your own mortality, I was never a cause for worry. Remember that I would never mind pointing out a rainbow. When you are scared of anything bring me along for company, I wouldn't listen to your fear. Your hurts, your aches, I will always be by your side to brighten a stressful day with a dumb idea or just a smile. If I was strong, draw strength from me. If I was happy, draw joy from me. If I had fun, draw fun from me. If I loved, draw love from me. Whatever I was to you, honor my memory by keeping me forever with you for the good I have been able to share.

With my deepest love and my biggest smile,
Adam Marc Kreiger

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