

## IN MEMORIUM: A PERSONAL NOTE

It is with a deep sense of sadness that I write these words in tribute to Dr. Debra Malewicki. I still think of “Deb” as my former Ph.D. student as I was privileged to Chair her dissertation committee and have her as a vibrant contributor to discussions in the Ph.D. Seminar in Entrepreneurship at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Her intellect and energy combined to make her one of the most talented students I worked with in my four decades of teaching.

Beginning with her admission to the Ph.D. program at UIC, it was clear that she was totally committed to help build the developing, intellectual field of entrepreneurship. At a time when we were all pioneers, establishing the legitimacy of this domain, Dr. Malewicki brought her exceptional abilities and experience. She had already worked extensively with entrepreneurs, gaining insights through observation that were rare for new Ph.D. candidates. This led her to identify particularly important issues to discuss and pursue, and she continued this into her last work regarding networks in this issue of *JSBS*. She also continued her outstanding work on technology commercialization.

Deb was not only a scholar in her own research but she served as a leader in the annual Research Symposium on Marketing and Entrepreneurship, held at George Washington University. It was there where I met her wonderful children and husband, and enjoyed their company with my wife. Deb was always quick to smile and laugh and her leadership orientation was infectious, always positive and upbeat.

We already miss Dr. Debra Malewicki, but we know that our world is better because she made a difference. As an ideal professor and role model, she generated important new knowledge and changed the lives of students and entrepreneurs for the better. She enriched her family and her many friends with her love. We thank you Deb.

In gratitude,

Gerry Hills  
Turner Chairholder, Bradley University  
Professor Emeritus, UIC

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