

David Anthony Zanis

April 9, 2011

David Anthony Zanis, Ph.D., 47, of Pottsville, died in an unfortunate mishap Saturday. He is in the loving embrace of the angels in heaven after living a life whereby he always put God first, others second and himself third.

Born in Pottsville, April 5, 1964, he was a son of Mary Ann Pillo and the late George S. Zanis.

He graduated from Pottsville High School in 1982. It was at Alvernia College that he discovered the tremendous value of education and his desire to help others in the field of drug and alcohol treatment and research. He graduated from Alvernia with his bachelor of arts degree in 1987, received his master's in social work in 1991 and his doctorate in 1996 from the University of Pennsylvania.

Dave was an associate professor at Temple University since 2004. In that position he was also the director of the Nonprofit Evaluation Services and Training Center in the College of Health Professions and Social Work at Temple. He taught a variety of courses in statistics, research methodology and community and organizational planning. He also was also employed at the University of Pennsylvania for the last 25 years, most recently as an adjunct research associate professor.

Prior to working at Temple, he held teaching positions at the University of Maryland and Marywood University. But it was his position as executive director of Schuylkill County Drug and Alcohol Commission in 1997 that brought his family back to Schuylkill County to grow and thrive.

Dave was the co-founder, with his wife, Tina, of Clinical Outcomes Group Inc., of Pottsville and Northumberland, serving most recently as the board president. COGI operates with the mission of improving the health of communities and it was with this goal in mind that Dave strove tirelessly to help others.

One of Dave's greatest abilities was writing, and he put those skills to use through grant-writing to obtain funding for needed services and programs in the community and academic research to further the treatment of addiction in society. Since 1998, he was the investigator for eight competitive grants awarded by the National Institute of Health, totaling more than \$18 million. He was also successful in obtaining more than 44 additional grants since 1997, representing more than \$13 million to the benefit of countless people in Pottsville and around the nation.

Dave was a member of the College on the Problems of Drug Dependence, the Society for Social Work Research, the Institute for Research, Education and

Treatment in Addictions, and the Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco.

He was currently serving on the board of Schuylkill County's VISION, Schuylkill Community Education Council, the Schuylkill County Conservancy, the Tamaqua Area Community Partnership, the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations and was president-elect of the Pottsville Rotary Club. Dave previously served as a board member for Maternal and Family Health, Wilkes-Barre, and held a research fellowship from Columbia University Center for the Study of Social Work Practice.

Dave was currently a reviewer for the Journal of Behavioral Health, Journal of Drug and Alcohol Dependence, Health Promotion Practice and the Administration for Children and Families. He was previously a reviewer for the Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment, the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the National Corporation for Community Services, the Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, Preventative Medicine, and the Administration for Children and Families. He has published more than 40 journal articles and book chapters throughout his career.

Dave was an active member of St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Pottsville, which was the center of his faith life.

He was a proud godfather of Matthew Zanis and Caden Leonard.

Above all else, Dave was a husband and father who left the world a bit better for having been here. The level of nurturing and patience that he demonstrated to his children every day will stay with them throughout their lives. The honesty and guidance that he offered to his wife will allow her to lead a life of gratitude.

Dave enjoyed hunting, gardening, running, auctions and going anywhere in the truck with his companion dog, Bug. He demonstrated humility in his everyday life and nurtured a love among his family that is beyond measure.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by grandparents, Anthony and Pauline Bairunas and John and Sophie Delpais Sr.

Surviving are his wife, the former Tina Holmstrom, and his children, Adalie, Lorne and Ella, all at home; a brother, Stephen and his wife, Christine, Pottsville; his stepfather, Ronald F. Pillo, Pottsville; his best friend, Jerry Leonard and his wife, Amy, and their children Caden and Alina, Ashland; his parents-in-law, Roland and Diane Holmstrom, Fallston, Md.; many cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and friends.

His family was the center of his life, in his heart and thoughts at every moment and the absolute reason he worked so hard every day to provide for them. They will be forever grateful for having the honor of loving him and will miss him all the

days of their lives.

Mass of Christian Burial will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church, Pottsville, with the Rev. David J. Loeper as celebrant. Visitation will be from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at the church. Interment will be at 11 a.m. Thursday in St. John the Baptist Cemetery, Pottsville. Lord Bixler Funeral Home Inc., Pottsville, has charge of arrangements.

The family requests no flowers. Donations may be made in Dave's memory to either the St. John the Baptist Church Memorial Fund or the David Anthony Zanis Fatherhood Fund c/o Clinical Outcomes Group Inc., 307 N. Second St., Pottsville, to further his efforts to help all fathers understand how critical they are in the lives of their children.

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