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IN MEMORIAM

Erik D. Croll (1969-2013)

All of us who knew Erik Croll—as a friend, classmate, student, researcher, or fellow traveler—were shocked and saddened to hear of his death on April 9, at just 43 years old. Erik is survived by his wife Lori, his mother Lucille, his father and stepmother David and Lynne, his brother Robert, and his parents-in-law Gordon and Joan. This volume of *The Undergraduate Review* is dedicated to his memory.

As an avid sailor, scuba diver, underwater photographer, and fisherman, Erik had a personal investment in water resource protection. And as a non-traditional student who returned to college after many years of working in maritime trades, he applied his interest in water and wetlands protection to studying hydrology at BSU. It was his Study Tour experience in Cambodia with Dr. Kevin Curry, Professor of Biological Sciences, in 2012, though, that truly committed Erik to work for water resource protection and to help address the immense need for access to safe drinking water around the world. As Erik put it, “Meeting impoverished but hopeful families in rural Cambodian villages really cemented within me that I want to use the science I am learning at Bridgewater State to actually make differences in the environment.” In the research paper he wrote after that experience, “Hydrogeologic Analysis Critical to Sustainable Development in the Kingdom of Cambodia,” he explained the fundamental importance of geological conditions in meeting that country’s challenges of water-resource management.

Erik’s deep concern for people in Cambodia without access to clean drinking water led him to return to Phnom Penh and Siem Reap in January 2013 to continue his research and work for sustainable, safe water resources. On that research trip, he focused on the geological conditions of the Kbal Spean River and Siem Reap River, both within the Tonle Sap Watershed—a setting with particular complexities created by the influx of tourists to Angkor Wat, the largest religious monument in the world, visited by nearly two million people a year. Erik’s study, unfortunately incomplete because of his sudden death, may nonetheless inform future studies on the efficacy and sustainability of clean drinking-water initiatives in the Tonle Sap Watershed.

Erik’s research last summer (published in this journal), mentored by Dr. Richard Enright, Professor of Geological Sciences, and funded by BSU’s Center for Sustainability, brought his commitment to safe drinking water close to home: to the public water supply in Marshfield, Massachusetts. The magnitude of this water resource issue is evident to several constituent groups with whom Erik shared his findings, many of whom urged him to continue collecting data and reporting the findings long after his summer research officially finished. Erik’s data will undoubtedly help to minimize environmental impacts upon the Furnace Brook watershed in Marshfield and maximize the use of the town’s water resources as a safe drinking-water supply—results that benefit the 25,000 residents of Marshfield and countless others whose communities are likewise working to safeguard water supplies.

Erik’s family requests memorial donations be sent to Water For Cambodia, c/o Middletown Rotary Charitable Trust, PO Box 4258, Middletown, RI 02842 (www.waterforcambodia.org) or to Faxon Animal Rescue League, 474 Durfee Street, Fall River, MA 02720.