

Leaving His "Mark"

A sentimental tribute to Mark Minor—colleague, parent and "buddy."

By Mike Taylor

"Hey Buddy!" That's how **Mark Minor** used to greet people on campus. Not that he didn't know their names, that's just how he regarded everyone—as buddies.

Mark, the Associated Students Publications Technician, passed away Feb. 6 after a 20-year battle with cancer. He may be gone, but he certainly won't be forgotten.

Mark was part of the Mt. SAC family for 22 years and wore many hats. Foremost, he was graphic artist and designer for the Associated Students, but there were many Student Life events and programs that Mark was involved in. One of the annual events that Mark geared up for every fall was the A.S. Leadership Retreat. Every holiday season, he got a special delight photographing the Child Development Center kids who came to sit on Santa's lap. He also used to work part time in Printing Services, and for 10 years he taught Photoshop and Illustrator courses through the Office Technology Department. The list of what Mark used to do at Mt. SAC could go on and on.

Mark had a variety of passions—photography, snowboarding, skiing—but clearly, he liked just having fun. It might be an understatement to say Mark and his family loved going to amusement parks, especially Disneyland. Ever notice the Disney décor theme in his office? And the irony wasn't lost on many of us when it just happened to be Mark who used to send out the campus announcements advertising discount tickets for these same theme parks.

Illness devastated the Minor family. In the summer of 2003, Mark's wife, Noreen, suddenly and unexpectedly passed away. He was left with two teenage children to raise, and he did so with extraordinary dedication and love despite his own debilitating health challenges.

Moved by compassion for Mark's children, Mt. SAC employees have rallied to honor his memory by establishing a scholarship memorial fund for Jesse, 17, and Rachel, 15. Anyone can contribute to the fund, which is being administered through Auxiliary Services.

In many ways, Mark exemplified the best attributes of Mt. SAC—friendly, hardworking, straightforward, and a willingness to help with every need. Staff and students were well represented at the funeral service for Mark in Rowland Heights. Many loving and tearful tributes were shared about him and what he meant to many people. But one sentiment summed up what everyone was thinking:

"Hey Buddy, we're sure gonna miss ya!"

