

Gary Loomis Blaich '68

Gary Loomis Blaich MD died at home in Kilauea, Hawaii, of cancer, on November 25, 2010.

Born and raised in Hawaii, at Dartmouth Gary was a brother at Sigma Alpha Epsilon and a member of Casque and Gauntlet, and of Green Key. He played football during his early years at the College and later was on the Rugby Club for three years. Gary attended Dartmouth Medical School for two years, and completed his MD degree at the University of Washington. His residency in psychiatry was at the University of Washington affiliated hospitals.

Upon completing his training, Gary moved back to Hawaii, where he worked at Hawaii State Hospital, was an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Hawaii School of Medicine, and maintained a private practice on Kaua'I for more than 30 years. As president of the Kaua'I Public Land Trust he helped lead efforts leading to the conservation of over 175 acres of coastal lands. He was also supportive of the Kaua'I Independent Food Bank and the Honolulu Art Academy. A medical school classmate recalled Gary "a man of great warmth and compassion, the ideal physician for a person in emotional distress."

Gary is survived by his wife of 42 years, Beryl; daughters Mehana Vaughan and Meleana Estes; two grandchildren; and many extended family members.

As published in the January 2011 Class Newsletter:

Cedric Kam notified us of Gary's death and provides us with this memorable anecdote.

Though I don't think I have seen Gary in person or spoken with him for over 20 years, he and I shared 8 of our most formative years together. Gary married our Punahou classmate Beryl Baily, whom he dated all through those 8 years. I will always remember Gary and Beryl fondly. Like the time, one spring weekend, he tried to talk me into loaning him my 10-speed Schwinn bicycle so he could ride from Hanover to Poughkeepsie, NY to see Beryl at Vassar. I thought he was crazy...but then, I'm not a romantic. Of course, no one else loaned him a bike, either. I just checked Google Maps: It's at least 200 miles and 20 hours by bicycle! Still, I always regretted not loaning him the bike...I bet he would have made it.

Dear Classmates,

For all of you who wish to send condolences to Beryl and family, their Kauai address is:

Beryl B. Blaich and Family P.O.

Box 1434

Kilauea, HI 96754

Your words of love and aloha are the greatest gift you can send. Gary was one of our class' "Rock of Gibaltars"... and sending your love and prayers to Beryl and the girls is the greatest gift of all.

Obituary: Gary Loomis Blaich, M.D. of Kilauea, died at home on Nov. 25, 2010. Born April 23, 1946 in Honolulu, he worked as a psychiatrist in the state mental-health system, and in private practice on Kaua'i, for over 30 years. As president of the Kaua'i Public Land Trust, he led the trust in conservation of over 175 acres of coastal lands on the island. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Beryl; daughters Mehana (Kilipaki) Vaughan and Meleana (Will) Estes; grandchildren, Pikomanawakupono and Pi'ina'emalina; mother-in-law Amelia (Jim Beatty) Bailey; brothers- and sisters-in-law Don Anderson and Jim, Fahy, Speedy (Pauline) and John (Karla) Bailey; nieces Britten, Lindsey and Brooke (Johnny) Bailey and Nicole (Bobby) Galchutt; and nephews Camm (Janene) Willener, Kaulana Bailey and Michael Coots.

A memorial celebration was held on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The family welcomes donations to Gary's favorite charities: the Kaua'i Public Land Trust, the Kaua'i Independent Food Bank and the Honolulu Art Academy.

There's a remembrance of Gary with photos of Beryl and their daughters on the Punahou 64 website:

http://www.punahou64.com/Punahou_64/Remembering_GARY.html