



Christopher Balcezak

July 25, 1969 - November 23, 2003

Christopher Thomas Balcezak M.D., 34, passed away Sunday, November 23, 2003 in Topeka. He was born July 25, 1969 to William and Sharon Lewis Balcezak in Wilmington, Delaware. He married Carol Lynn Foster on April 19, 1997 in Kansas City, MO. Dr. Balcezak received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, his Doctor of Medicine degree from the University of Texas School of Medicine and completed his residency training at the University of Kansas Medical Center. He was a partner with Urology Associates of Topeka, P.A. He was a member of the American Association of Clinical Urologists, American College of Surgeons, American Medical Association, American Urologist Association, American Urologist Association-South Central Section, Kansas Medical Society, Shawnee County Medical Society, University of Kansas Alumni Association, University of Notre Dame Alumni Association, University of Texas Medical Alumni Association. He is survived by his wife Carol, three children, Hannah, Benjamin and Grace, parents, William and Sharon Balcezak; Austin, TX, brother; Michael Balcezak and his wife Kristi, Austin, TX, sister; Heather Hodes and her husband Ted, Austin, TX, three nephews and two nieces. Visitation will be 9 - 10 a.m. Saturday, November 29, 2003 at Holy Name Catholic Church, 1114 SW 10th Street, with a rosary at 10:00 a.m. A memorial Mass will follow at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers memorial donations may be sent in care of the Balcezak Children's Fund c/o Commerce Bank.

Tribute Wall



“ Christopher Balcezak

January 28, 2023 at 12:08 PM



“ Balcezak family,

I was honored to spend four wonderful years with Chris while we were in medical school and even seven closer weeks together during our trip to China.

I will always remember Chris for his wonderful sense of humor, enthusiasm, genuine character and his caring friendship.

I will remember his love for Notre Dame and the time he bet me on the Texas A&M/Notre Dame football game, that the loser would have to sing the opposing team's fight song in front of the entire medical school class. Sure enough, Chris gladly let me borrow his Notre Dame sweatshirt and baseball cap so I could wear it the entire day and he painstakingly made sure I knew all the words of the Notre Dame fight song during my inharmonious solo.

He will live forever in my heart.

With deepest sympathy,

Mark "Tag" Filley, MD

Mark "Tag" Filley, MD - March 15, 2004 at 02:00 PM

LH

“ *Balcezak Family,*

We will write more later, but we wanted you to know how saddened we are for your loss and ours. You have been in our prayers since the 24th. Chris was a gifted young man and we thank the Lord that we were able to be a part of his life and be touched by him. His energy was contagious. I enjoyed 3 years of High School choir with Chris and John was a leader for a youth group where Chris and I attended. He always had something funny to add at youth group. He even wrote and sang a song for some of our friends on a youth group ski trip.

I would love to have seen Chris as a doctor. I'm sure (as we have read from others) that he was amazing!

We are unable to attend the service in Austin on Saturday, but please know that our prayers are with you and our hearts are hurting with you. We pray Christ's peace and comfort upon you all. God Bless, Lisa Hendrix Hand and John Hand

Lisa and John Hand - December 12, 2003 at 09:40 PM

PG

“ *I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Balcezak over the past five years both at KU Medical Center and with Urology Associates of Topeka. He was always so pleasant to work with and eager to discuss anything, especially Notre Dame Football. I remember meeting him the first time at a Prostate Cancer Support Group Meeting in KC and seeing his class ring and talking about ND from the start. He had a passion for everything he did.*

As a pharmaceutical rep, he was always willing to talk to me about medicine and he cared very much for his patients, friends and family. I will remember him and his family in my thoughts and prayers always. It's so sad to see such a good man die before his time. He will be greatly missed!

Pat Giller - December 10, 2003 at 10:48 AM

PS

“ Sharon,
I am so very sorry for your loss. You and your family are in my thoughts and prayers. It is hard to lose any loved one, and especially difficult to lose a child and during the holiday season.

I pray that you find the strength you need now. Remember that your friends and loved ones are here to support you. Call anytime.

Paula Swenson - December 09, 2003 at 04:12 PM



“ *Christopher Balcezak*

December 05, 2003 at 03:49 PM

JB

“ *To Sharon and family: We were deeply saddened to hear of Chris's death. Please share our thoughts and prayers with you and your family as well as with Chris' wife, Carol and his children. Our deepest sympathy to you all. Our condolences will never replace Chris. His memories will serve as the tributes of what a wonderful person Chris was in life, and his spirit will live on through his family.*
Janet and Peter Bassett

Janet Bassett - December 05, 2003 at 10:20 AM

KP

“ To the Family of Dr. Balcezak~ I was honored to have worked with "Dr. B", as we nurses called him, at KU Med Center when he was finishing his residency. I remember him so well as being very friendly and willing to help everyone! It was a terrible shock when I heard on the news of his passing. My thoughts and prayers are with each of you on your loss. Chris truly was a great person and physician. May you be comforted at this time. With deepest sympathy, Kelli Potter

Kelli Potter - December 04, 2003 at 12:59 PM

BD

“ I graduated from Westlake in 1986 and was on the track team with Chris. We both ran the hurdles and formed an instant friendship. Although I had not spoken with Chris in over 10 years, the news of his passing hit me hard. Chris was kind, warm-hearted, and his sense of humor always brightened up our monotonous track practices. My deepest sympathy to you all. He will be dearly missed.

Billy Didlake - December 04, 2003 at 09:36 AM

BA

“ Last January, I had the occasion to consult with Dr. Chris and in talking, discovered we were neighbors. I found him to be warm, friendly, and genuinely concerned about others. One concern he had, which we laughed about, was not having enough time to mow his lawn and 'what do the neighbors think?!' Last summer when I drove by and he was on his riding mower, I honked my horn and he gave me a 'thumbs up'. It made us both smile. My deepest sympathy to all of his family-may the love of your community and friends bring you some peace. We care.

Beverly Amyotte - December 03, 2003 at 08:17 PM

PC

“ Dear family of Dr Chris, I am a RN at ST.Francis hospital. I work on th5th floor ortho/post surg. Being a night nurse I saw the DR. come early am. He always came in with a big smile and greeting. He always made me feel good and appreciated. Words cannot express my sorrow at his tragic death. From the minute I first heard he was missing ai prayed for him and for you . God be with you all. I will continue to remember Dr. Chris and you his beloved family in my prayers.Please remember we loved him and care deeply about you.

pat cummings - December 03, 2003 at 04:19 PM

GI

“ It is so apparent by reading what others have written what a wonderful husband, father, doctor Chris was. He was my doctor when I had complications with my pregnancy 2 1/2 years ago and continued to be so. I always appreciated his references to God and His plan for me, his wonderful personality and of course, hearing those cowboy boots coming down the drab hospital hall--that was always music to our ears. I continue to pray daily for those that have suffered this loss. May the Lord comfort you during this heartbreaking time.

Ginger - December 02, 2003 at 12:39 PM

AR

“ I was fortunate enough to meet Dr. Balcezak a couple of years ago when i worked in medical records at Stormont Vail.. believe me, this wasn't ever a place any doctor liked to visit, yet Dr. Balcezak was one of our favorite visitors...always so respectful..always so friendly...after I left, there were a handful of doctor's I knew I would remember due to their kindness and wonderful nature, Dr. Balcezak was one of them. God Bless you all..

allison reynolds - December 02, 2003 at 11:55 AM

TS

“ Dear Carol, Hannah, Ben and Grace, I just wanted you to know my thoughts and prayers are with you. Give me a call Carol and I can come get Ben to play with Jared. God Bless, Tammie Schooler

Tammie Schooler - December 01, 2003 at 09:29 PM

JW

“ Sharon, Bill, Heather, Michael and the Whole Balcezak Family,

I can't tell you how saddened I was to hear of your loss. You have certainly been in the thoughts and prayers of my family and will continue to be. Chris was such a wonderful person, and I know that while he is gone from this Earth, his good spirit will live on through each of you, his wife and children.

Jennifer Waisath, Austin, TX

Jennifer Waisath - December 01, 2003 at 09:04 PM

RI

“ We felt just devastated at the news of Chris's death, and cannot even imagine how you all must feel. Our hope is that you cling to your wonderful faith and your many friends. We love you and will be here for you in Austin.

Rose and Gabe Ireland - December 01, 2003 at 09:53 AM

MF

“ Dear Balcezak Family:

I cannot express how saddened I am to hear of the news. I will never forget my childhood times with Chris, exploring the woods and creeks of Austin, playing in the houses under construction in Lost Creek, spending nights at each other's homes, participating in the Boy's Choir and other Mr. Dunn productions. I remember well when it snowed and I was stuck at your house for several days.

My childhood memories of Chris have stood the test of time and will never fade. I will always remember those days fondly, and it is such a pleasure to hear how he has continued to touch lives throughout his career.

I want his wife and children to know that even from a young age Chris made an impact on the lives of those around him.

May the Holy Spirit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ bring you peace in this time. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you are in need of anything.

With much love,

*Matt Foster
Westlake High School Class of 1987*

Matt Foster - December 01, 2003 at 09:41 AM

MW

“ I met Dr B the first of the year with a referral from another doctor who "wouldn't hesitate to go to him himself". I met with Dr B and was completely confident I had found a wonderful doctor. His "bedside manners" were comforting and he was totally honest. He finally released me from his care but I always considered him one of my favorite doctors. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. I am sorry he left us.

Maggie Waggoner - December 01, 2003 at 09:00 AM

LJ

“ may god be with the family of Mr.Balcezak at his time of great loss.

LeaAnn Johnson - November 30, 2003 at 11:09 PM

PR

“ Words can not adequately express the sadness many of the nurses at St. Francis feel concerning Dr. Balcezak's death. He was a pleasure to work with and the kind of person whose presence is welcomed. Our prayers are with him and his family.

Patricia Paulson-Robertson RN - November 29, 2003 at 08:54 PM

PG

“ To all the family of Dr Balcezak my deepest sympathy. As a former staff nurse in the recovery room at Stormont-Vail I remember Dr. Balcezak as very caring and concerned for his patients. He always had a smile and kind words for the staff too. I am very saddened. My prayers are with you.

Priscilla George - November 29, 2003 at 06:05 PM

CF

“ We met Dr. Balcezak about a year ago when our little boy needed to have surgery to fix a problem he was born with. He was so nice and explained everything to us completely. We were very pleased with the surgery and how everything turned out. Our little boy really thought alot of him and we did too. He will always be in your thoughts. Our hearts go out to his family.
Carl and Holly Wisdom and Family

Carl Wisdom Family - November 29, 2003 at 01:55 PM

RE

“ To the children:
Your Dad was a loving & caring Doctor--he was well respected by all. He was my Dad's Doctor, this last week he had to share bad news (test results) with my Dad. My Dad came home and told me how kind and caring his Doctor was(your Dad). Your Dad asured my Dad that "he would be alright". Those words of encouragement made the difference that day, I only pray that you have the same peace someday that your father gave my father that day last week.

Renee - November 29, 2003 at 12:08 PM

GS

“ *Dr. Balcezak was my Dr. My condolences to your family. OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOUR FAMILY. He was a very comforting man when he help me with my decesion for surgury. And shared his faith in God. He will truly be missed. May the Lord keep you strong. God Bless Gordon & Alice Stohs*

Gordon Stohs - November 29, 2003 at 08:33 AM

BS

“ I met Dr. Balcezak when he first came to Topeka. He cared for my father towards the end of his life. I can remember when I went in with my dad, Dr. Balcezak would start the conversation with "My friend". Even though I really didn't know him well, he helped me through with my father's illness. I was saddened to hear the news. My family is praying for the family of Dr. Balcezak..."my friend".
Brice Smith and Family

Brice Smith - November 29, 2003 at 12:21 AM

LS

“ Our deepest sympathy goes out to the family of Dr. Chris Balcezak, M.D. We are deeply saddened by the death of a great man. We enjoyed his smiling face. We enjoyed visiting with him at dr. visits with our son and brother. We believe he was a firm believer in GOD just the way he talked to us about our son's condition. We don't know exactly what happened but we believe there was a reason because there is a reason for everything. It was a shock to hear about his death and he will be deeply missed by all his patients. We believe there is a place for him in heaven to help others just like he has helped many of us. To his children: Your daddy is an angel watching over you.

Lyle, Sylvia, Clarence, Jennifer, & Sam Shockey - November 28, 2003 at 10:24 PM

DD

“ Pat and I will never forget the great times with Chris at the Chiefs games! Giving him the high five and spilling our drinks on him was always met with a laugh and smile. Those times will never be forgotten. He will be truly missed by the both of us.

Carol, God bless you and your family.

Don and Pat Daly

Don & Pat Daly - November 28, 2003 at 10:10 PM

RF

“ To Dr. Balcezak's family: We were deeply saddened to hear of Dr. Chris's death. Dr. Chris was a very valuable doctor that took time in his profession with each patient. Without Dr. Chris, my grandfather (Robert Horne) would not be here today. Please share our thoughts and prayers to his children as he shared his life with our family. Our condolences will never replace such a wonderful person in life. The Robert Horne Family

Robert Horne Family - November 28, 2003 at 06:39 PM

WR

“ DEAREST FAMILY,
ALTHO WE DIDN'T KNOW HIM PERSONALLY WHEN WE HEARD THE NEWS WE WERE AWE STRICKEN WITH YOU, AND OUR LOVE HEARTS AND PRAYERS GO OUT TO ALL OF YOU.
WILLIE WOULD SEE HIM AT STORMONT AND HE ALWAYS HAD A NOD AND HELLO FOR EVERY EMPLOYEE THAT TO IS A GIFT NOT MANY HAVE ,WE THANK HIM FOR SHARING HIS GIFT AND KNOW THAT THERE ARE TONS OF ARMS AROUND YOU NOW.

Willie & Wanda Reddick - November 28, 2003 at 06:34 PM

RG

“ Dear Carol, Hannah, Ben, and Grace:

Attending the Chiefs games and tailgating in the lot before the game will never be the same without Chris, and having you there as well will always be filled with fond memories. The medical community has lost a tremendous individual, and your family should be very proud of Chris and the expertise and kindness that were part of his daily life, and his overwhelming compassion for his patients and his fellow colleagues was exemplary. Always professional yet filled with laughter and always ready to give or receive a good joke. Always talking about his wonderful wife and children. Please accept my condolences, Chris was a great friend and excellent physician; and I know he was an excellent husband and father as well.

Rick Gomez - November 28, 2003 at 05:57 PM

HK

“ After working with Dr. Balcezak a few times at the hospital, I have come to discover that he was a outstanding urologist. He was great with his patients, and worked well with everyone. Indeed, the medical profession and the community has suffered a great loss. My thoughts and prayers have been with you and your family from the beginning. May your family find the peace of heart and mind to make it through this difficult time. God Bless the Balcezak family.
Heather Kimber

Heather Kimber - November 28, 2003 at 05:33 PM

NL

“ *Dear Balcezak family,
We are so saddened by your loss. As a general internist and a hospitalist, we sent countless patients to Chris for their urological care. He saved people's lives, fixed minor problems and cheerfully saw people who probably only needed reassurance. He did it all with equal aplomb, and we never heard a bad word about him from patients, nurses or fellow physicians. (That is a rarity.) Every patient we sent to him came back impressed and thankful. Chris was kind, compassionate, smart and most collegial.
And as others have said in this forum, he never stopped talking about his family. He loved his children and his wife, and when many of his colleagues were talking about less important things, he was telling stories about his family. There was never any doubt where his heart was.
He will not be forgotten, and you have every reason to be proud of who he was in his much too short life. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and always also with Chris.
Nina and Bobby*

Nina Bryhn and Bobby Lee - November 28, 2003 at 03:21 PM

BW

“ *My sincere sympathy goes out to the family, friends, patients and associates of Dr. Balcezak. He came to the Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca where I work in the business office. Unlike many doctors, he always took the time to say "Hi, How are you, etc." Many of his patients have spoken in the recent days of how well he was liked. He will be missed by many.*

Barb Winkler - November 28, 2003 at 02:48 PM

LL

“ To Dr. Balcezak's family,

I cannot begin to imagine what you must be going through. From the minute I heard he was missing my heart sank and I began praying for all of you.

I, too, was a patient. He provided me comfort in a time I was feeling so much stress. He always greeted me with his optimism and a smile. He had one of those infectious personalities. It was he, along with others, that inspired me to go back to school. I wanted to be a source of comfort and positive influence in the medical community for those facing challenges, as I once was.

I am now a radiology student at Washburn. My clinical site often takes the x-rays for Dr. Balcezak's patients, and I always enjoy talking to them about him. It was pretty much a consensus that he was a wonderful and caring Doctor. He will be missed by so many.

I will continue to keep you family in my thoughts and prayers. I truly believe that if God leads us to something, He will get us through it.

I am so sorry.

Lisa Lockhart - November 28, 2003 at 12:18 PM

HM

“ *I was tremendously saddened to hear of Chris's death and I'm sorry for your loss. Chris was a very respected physician. I remember when we met; his stated goal was to be part of the finest urology practice in Kansas. He meant it, and I believed him.*

As well, our sincere condolences to his partners and staff.

Henry and Tricia Spangler

Henry Spangler, MD - November 28, 2003 at 11:17 AM

LW

“ Was a patient when he started in practice and found him bright, enthusiastic well informed with great surgical skill. It is a great loss with all of those years of training to only practice two years. He removed a kidney stone for me in May 2002. He will be well remembered. My sympathy to his family.

Lloyd Weaver - November 28, 2003 at 10:35 AM

KC

“ Dearest Carol, Hannah, Benjamin, Grace, Aunt Sharon, Uncle Binky, Heather, Ted, your children, Michael, Kristi and your children,

Chris was apart of my life when he was too small to remember. He grabbed everyone's attention with his handsome face and bright smile. One memory that I will never forget was the last Thanksgiving we were all together at your

old house up north. Aunt Sharon you spilled an entire bowl of peas on Chris's head and on his highchair. Most babies would cry, not Chris he laughed, smiled and proceeded to eat and throw the peas. My last encounter with Chris was when he was visiting with our family in New York at mom's house. John and I took him out. We had a great time and wonderful talks about life. He was a student at Notre Dame then. He was talking mostly about his ideas for the future. Chris had the dream then of becoming a doctor or a priest. I remember the passion he had for both life decisions.

I am so sorry that his dream got cut off so young. However his decision to be a husband, father and doctor was the right one! Look around at all the people he has touched in his young life. What a beautiful person to have influenced and helped so many people. He impressed me as a dedicated husband, father, son, brother, friend and doctor. What an extraordinary person! I was fortunate to have known and loved Chris.

John and I will always remember Chris as a cousin and friend who we admire. We will keep all of you in our prayers forever! We love you very much! Our hearts break for your pain.

God bless Chris in Heaven forever!

Love always,

Karen, John, Conor John, Brianna, & Cailin xoxo

Karen & John Campbell - November 28, 2003 at 09:39 AM

MM

“ Dear Hannah, Ben and Grace,
Your Dad was a wonderful man. He spoke of you all so frequently I feel I know you. He was so proud of Hannah's dancing and Ben's latest trick at home. Little Grace was so beautiful he said. Your father was compassionate and caring to people worked with and the patients he saw. He had a bit of a temper but then he would get this huge smile on his face. He will watch over you in heaven always. He loved you all so much. God Bless you, We have been praying for you.

Michele (the lady who sent Hello Kitty to Hannah)

Michele McClellan - November 28, 2003 at 09:15 AM

JW

“ Chris was a bright physician, who was always so upbeat and full of life. He was a great person and friend. He was SO devoted to Carol and his children. Chris approached EVERYTHING with tremendous passion - that was just who he was, but he REALLY loved Carol and those kids. We have all lost this week, but to Carol my heart goes out.

Jim Williams - November 28, 2003 at 09:07 AM

DE

“ My Father and Father-in-law were both patients of Dr. Balcezak and they are very sad about his passing they both told me how wonderful of a doctor and a person that he was. The community has suffered a great loss. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Balcezak family.

Dee - November 28, 2003 at 09:00 AM

MB

“ *Dr. Balcezak was an excellent Urologist. I was a patient of Dr. Balcezak's. He made me feel at ease when I had to make the visit to his office. I could not have asked for a better Urologist. The medical profession and the entire community has suffered a great loss. Our thoughts and prayers are you and your family. God Bless, Dr. Balcezak. Mike and Laura Browne*

Michael Browne - November 27, 2003 at 08:57 PM

MB

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Michael Browne - November 27, 2003 at 08:54 PM