

Rick Hall

(1945-2012)



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RICK HALL, A GIANT OF A MEDICAL ILLUSTRATOR HAS LEFT US.

This year, AMI members received some sad news—Rick Hall had died in his sleep from what appeared to be a hemorrhagic stroke.

Rick was a graduate of the Michigan program in 1973 and was so totally enthralled with teaching from that experience that he devoted most of his professional life to teaching. He taught Medical Illustration at the University of Illinois regional program in Champaign-Urbana. When the program was incorporated into the Chicago campus, he was hired to upgrade the bachelor's curriculum at The Ohio State University to a master's program.

While in Columbus, he set up his own business, Medical Media. He jumped at the chance to lead the reorganization of the Medical Art program at the Cleveland Institute of Art. Unfortunately, his health problems interfered with his completion of the impressive progress towards a master's degree program.

Rick had a strong love of three-dimensional work and created numerous anatomical models, patient simulators, and exhibits. He was skilled in many techniques but his true love was teaching. He greatly missed his students in retirement.

He leaves behind his wife, Sue, and beloved children and grandchildren, who will miss his constant good nature in the face of adversity. His friends will remember his unbounded enthusiasm about everything and his tireless work ethic. Nothing was impossible for Rick; nothing was too big for him to tackle; he always had time for administrative challenges and the educational, personal, and professional problems of his students. They knew he was always there for them with expert technical advice and personal counseling.

Rick had not been active in the AMI recently due to poor health. He made a rare appearance in 2004 to receive a much-deserved honor, The Max Brödel Award For Educational Excellence. Many of his devoted family accompanied him when he received this award from a grateful and admiring membership. He considered that recognition as the culmination of his career as a medical illustrator. He was proud to call himself a medical illustrator and to be a member of the Association. He told me many times that he felt our profession was much more than just a fun and interesting way to earn a living. His pride came from the fact that he believed the service he, and all of us, offered to the medical and health professions was vitally important to the health and well being of the nation.

Rick Hall was a good friend to so many of us, a real great guy with a huge heart. I regret so many of you never had the pleasure of knowing him. Nevertheless, remember the name, Rick Hall. He was a recognized giant in the AMI, an organization he loved with all his heart.