David Mascaro
(1941-2015)

Professor David Joseph Mascaro passed away from cancer early on the morning of Thursday, March 19th. He was an Associate Professor Emeritus in the Department of Medical Illustration at Georgia Regents University.

David was born February 2, 1941 to August and Mary Mascaro, in Mount Vernon, NY. As a young boy David received praise as an artist. As a young man he received extensive fine arts training at The Art Students League, The National Academy of Fine Arts, The School of Visual Arts, and the New York Phoenix School of Design, all in New York City. David also studied privately with Alton S. Tobey, noted historical painter, muralist, portrait artist and art instructor.

He was drafted into the US Army during the Vietnam War. He trained as an MP, and was subsequently posted to security at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL.

While on leave from the Arsenal, David journeyed to Augusta for an interview with O.A. Parkes, Director of the Medical Illustration Graduate Program at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). After taking the prerequisite science courses, David matriculated in 1966. In 1969, he graduated with both his BS and MS in medical illustration. After graduation he worked as a professional medical illustrator at Syracuse University.

In 1971, David returned to MCG to join the faculty of Medical Illustration. His drawing and painting skills were exceptional, and he was an acknowledged master with color. He was great at visual problem solving and storytelling. David received numerous awards for his artwork, and in 1999 he received the Brodel Award for Excellence in Education from the Association of Medical Illustrators (AMI). He published articles on the use of color in medical illustration, conducted national and regional workshops on color theory, and was a longtime professional member of the AMI. David helped revise the illustrative work begun by the late Dr. Frank Netter for the CIBA Pharmaceutical Company. Perhaps most importantly, David had a remarkable ability to relate and connect with the students. Having learned well from Mr. Parkes, David continued to instill and foster a sense of family and camaraderie among the students and faculty, a trait that has been such a distinctive characteristic of the Georgia program. As a teacher, mentor, and friend he has had a positive and enduring influence on over 300 MCG students and a great many members of the AMI.

Capping a 29-year career in teaching at MCG, David was recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from the School of Allied Health Sciences in 2000. David retired from daily teaching responsibilities at the end of June that same year. Later that summer, the program established the David J. Mascaro Teaching Gallery of Medical Illustration as a lasting tribute to this gifted teacher and artist.

In 2007 he came out of retirement to teach in the Medical Illustration Graduate Program part-time. He also taught drawing and painting in the Art Department at Augusta State University from time to time.

David was also a successful gallery artist and painting instructor. While at MCG and in retirement, he painted many portraits of eminent persons at MCG and around Augusta. David was the owner of Mascaro Studio & Gallery. David is survived by Gail, his wife of 36 years, and his sister Mary, of Riverside, CA. His son Giancarlo predeceased him, in 2011.

As a teacher, mentor, and friend he has had a positive and enduring influence on over 300 MCG students and a great many members of the AMI. David will be dearly missed, but he will be long remembered for his great warmth, friendship, generosity, and infectious laughter.