

**Taking a Stand: Challenges and Controversies
in Reproductive Health, Maternal Mortality and HIV/AIDS:
Tribute Dinner Part I
June 7, 2006**

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[START RECORDING]

LEE BOLLINGER: Could I have your attention please. It is my great pleasure to welcome you here this evening. We have a long program and I am determined to make it a celebration. I would like to begin by of course recognizing Allan Rosenfield.

[Applause]

This is going to be a very long evening [laughter] and I am very happy about that for one, because now I would like to introduce Clare Rosenfield, artist, mother, colleague, graduate. [Applause] I would like to introduce their children, Jill and Paul. [Applause] I would like to introduce Allan's brother, Jim Rosenfield. [Applause]

It is a great honor and pleasure to have here this evening the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan and his wife, Nan. [Applause] We have Princess Firyal Jordan here. [Applause] We have former President Mike Sovern and his wife Pat. [Applause] Former President George Rupp and his wife Nancy. [Applause] The new executive vice-president for Health Sciences, Lee Goldman and Dr. Jerry Fischbach, who was his predecessor. [Applause] And we have many, many of our devoted University trustees. I would also like to acknowledge President Mary Robinson, Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, Stephen Lewis, special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, Arthur Levitt, former chairman of SEC and Kenneth Cole, designer and

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humanitarian. Thank you all for being here. [Applause]

My wife Jean would be here tonight. She would not miss this, but for a family medical need that keeps her away, and I would like to begin by reading a brief statement from Jean.

"Allan, Lee and I have followed your work on Maternal Mortality and it should be called, 'Mothers Dying'. In rural Ghana, traveled with you to see your team at work on alleviating the curse of arsenic of shallow wells in Bangladesh. Seeing you comfort those with inadequate care for babies born of AIDS in Kenya, and observed your planning from the ground up, the first major United States effort to administer medicines to patients with AIDS in Mozambique. It is such an unusual person who can feel the same desire to help, whether it is a single individual or a whole continent of people. I admire so much and feel very fortunate to be one of your many, many friends. Jean."

[Applause]

It is a singular experience. Jean gave me that to read. It made me think of these trips we took with Allan and he was our guide to the world that he has been such a powerful influence in. And I thought it is a singular experience to be in an international plane going international overnight, with Allan because the plane is dark, except for one area that is lit by a computer screen and you know that that is Allan who is working offline to send the dozens of e-mails and messages as

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soon as the plane touches the ground.

And it made me think that with Allan, all the things that we will recognize tonight, all the things that we know that are so significant, actually the effects of what he has done will be like this flood of messages that happens when the plane touches down and all this offline work suddenly floods the world - and that is what we have to look forward to.

We are blessed tonight with 800 people. We have had such an overwhelming response to this dinner - almost twice as many as we originally anticipated - that we had to add an extra tent to accommodate everybody. Allan will spend half the dinner in each tent. [Laughter] He will not be able to see every one of you. And so, we encourage you, with the note cards that are at your seat, to leave a personal message for Allan and then put it in one of the baskets at the exits.

Let me just say a few words and then I have a significant announcement to begin the evening. Like his father, Allan was trained to bring life into this world as an obstetrician. But since graduating from medical school, he has broadened the scope to include not just the lives of the newly born, but the lives of all human beings. And so, the last baby he actually delivered was his daughter, Jill, over 30 years ago.

He earned a medical degree from Columbia in 1959 and

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when he was 33 years old, he took a \$4,000 a year job at a newly opened medical school in Nigeria. He got a quick education in the problems of practicing medicine in Africa and learned lessons that would carry through to his work today.

The Rosenfields then moved to Thailand, where Allan worked with Thai health officials to change procedures so that women no longer required a prescription to get contraception. He also helped educate health workers in rural areas to better deal with common emergencies. Allan joined the Columbia community in 1975 and became Dean of the School of Public Health in 1986. Over the course of his 20 years there, the budget grew from \$10 million a year to \$160 million a year.

[Applause]

The Mailman School of Public Health has a history of being at the forefront of teaching and research and has always been a leader in the fields that it has undertaken, but it is the first institution - in many areas, it was the first institution to establish programs in social medical sciences and in psychiatric epidemiology training, the first to offer a joint degree in business and public health and the first to provide graduate education in hospital administration.

The Mailman School has been a leader on issues of national and international concern as well. From emerging threats like SARS and the Avian Bird Flu to chronic challenges,

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such as childhood asthma, environmental health hazards and providing health care for the uninsured in the country. The school's research and service programs operate in nearly 50 countries around the globe, not just delivering health care - in also transferring knowledge on the two-way street, working with people on the ground who understand how to adapt innovative models to local needs and providing expertise that empowers others to deal with the health challenges they face.

But it is the battle of AIDS/HIV, a battle which this very week, Secretary General Kofi Annan and his colleagues report that we are at risk of losing, that has engaged all of Allan's vast experience and knowledge. And part of what we will talk about tomorrow is how we can do a better job of turning Allan's ideas into action on an even broader scale.

Allan is often praised for his outstanding leaderships. Rewards just pour in for him, including the Healthy World Award given to him by the Global Health Council just last week. And Planned Parenthood's Margaret Sanger Award, which he received in March. In fact, Allan probably broke a record last month by receiving three awards in two days. [Laughter] May 9th, the Stephen Smith Award for Lifetime Achievement for individuals who have contributed the highest levels of research, education and programs. May 9th, the 2006 Kenneth Ryan, MD Physician Leadership Award for his career efforts in improving

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reproductive health care, given by the Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health. And on May 10th, the 2006 Health and Human Rights Leadership Award for his efforts in promoting health and human rights around the world, given by Doctors of the World, USA. [Applause]

His work has changed Columbia. It has changed our community and our city. And with the help of a lot of people here tonight, Allan Rosenfield will go right on changing the world. In 2002, Allan and the Mailman School's board of advisors launched a capital campaign to underwrite the cost of renovating the Mailman School's new home at 722 West 100th and 68th Street. Along the way, they raised \$20 million with significant commitments from the Mailman family. Don Green, who was a tremendous University supporter, Susan and Allan Patrokov [misspelled?], and Jack and Valerie Rowe. And also the Hess family.

In March 2006, the University created the Allan Rosenfield Tribute Fund, with a goal of \$20 million. We met at the president's house and launched this so that friends and family, associates, admirers, foundations and other organizations could help him complete this important project during his tenure as Dean. Jim Rosenfield, his brother was a spearhead of this.

I am proud to say that since March - just a few months

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ago - more than \$36 million has already been committed to this fund. [Applause] What is important about this is not only that the building will be finished, but it reflects the enormous respect and affection that Allan's friends and supporters feel for him.

I want to make a special note of some of the organizations that have contributed to this fund in Allan's honor. Together, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation have all made very generous commitments. Individuals and families have also reached out with leadership gifts, including the Alfred and Gail Engleberg Foundation, the Habrin [misspelled?] family, Mrs. Norma Hess, the Mailman family, Judith Sulzberger and Allan's friends from the ski community in Windham, New York. [Applause]

Finally, completing the new home of the Mailman School will fulfill one of Allan's long term goals. For all those reasons and more, it gives me great pleasure to make an announcement this evening, one that carries with it deep significance for all of us here at Columbia. We have recommended, and the trustees approved this past weekend, a resolution to name the main building at the Mailman School in honor of Allan's exemplary life and career. [Applause] That will make the new name of the building officially the Allan

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Rosenfield Building. Dr. Tom Frieden will have a proclamation to read on this in a bit.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you Phyllis Mailman who, combined with the remarkable generosity of her family, has worked with Allan to make the Mailman School one of the most committed institutions to the health of our communities, both locally and globally. Welcome Phyllis Mailman.

PHYLLIS MAILMAN: President Bollinger, Secretary General and Mrs. Annan, honored and honoring guests, good evening - I guess I should say, extraordinary evening, outstanding evening, unbelievable, auspicious evening to all, especially to Allan.

Tonight you have heard and you will hear others more articulate than I noting Allan's remarkable achievements in his professional life. And his 20 magnificent years as Dean. You have heard and you will hear more about his dedication and his tenacity and his tremendous ability to raise global awareness of the pressing need and moral obligation to improve the human condition. And you have heard and will hear more of the enormous respect and admiration he has engendered from his peers.

I am here however to reveal one of his greatest, but I think largely unknown, talents. The man is a skilled sorcerer.

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[Laughter] A few years ago - 1998 to be exact - he managed almost single-handedly to bedazzle and bumfoozle [misspelled?] three reasonably intelligent human beings - my daughter Jodi, my son Josh and me, who incidentally had absolutely no connection to Columbia or to public health. [Laughter] He then proceeded to separate us from a significant chunk of our Foundation resources. [Laughter] [Applause]

Allan does not practice slight of hand. He practices slight of mind. And we are eternally grateful that he is such a master at it. He beguiles us still, as we join this illustrious gathering to offer love, admiration, appreciation and kudos from here to Poughkeepsie. As I am often mused, Joe Mailman would have said, "This is the best deal I ever made." [Laughter] Thank you Allan. [Applause]

LEE BOLLINGER: As I noted earlier, the budget of the School of Public Health went from \$10 million to \$160 million in Allan's time and a lot of university presidents and provosts here are exactly in the same position as Phyllis Mailman. They have given up a big chunk of the University resources [laughter] because of Allan's persistence and persuasion. I would like to recognize Governor Dukakis and Kitty, his wife. Would you please stand up so we can acknowledge you? [Applause]

I would now like to introduce Judy Jones, who is a

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member of the faculty. She is clinical professor of Population and Family Health at the Mailman School and director of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation National Program office for Free to Grow, head start partnerships to promote substance-free communities. She is the founding director of the National Center for Children and Poverty, established in 1989 at Columbia University. Welcome Judy. [Applause]

JUDITH JONES: I think Mrs. Mailman said it all. Allan is a sorcerer and what I am going to share with you this evening is how I ended up at Columbia University when I was not really sure why I was there. I had just moved back to New York from Washington, DC and one summer afternoon, I got a call at my house. There was a man on the phone that said, "I am on my way to Thailand. I can not talk to you now. I am rushing out the door. Do not take a job. Wait for me. I will be back." [Laughter] I was not even sure what his name was. [Laughter] I told my husband, Madison that night I got the wildest call that I have ever received in my life.

In any event, in six weeks almost to the day, Allan came back and said, "Come meet me at the Population Council and we can discuss what you might like to do." Well quite frankly, out of curiosity I went. And after a brief conversation, I was offered a job at the Center for Population and Family Health - I have never even heard of it. I had no CV with me at this

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initial meeting with Allan, and yet he asked me to become the administrator, community liaison and fundraiser for his new center.

The fact that I had never raised a nickle in my life did not seem to deter Allan, nor was the purpose of the fundraising explained. I implied cheaplessly [misspelled?] that I would have to consider the breadth of this potential assignment. And after numerous calls from him, I finally agreed to join the center as a consultant for a brief period of time to see if I could do the work, or at least part of it. That was 30 years ago in 1975. [Applause]

Quite frankly, over the years I have seen Allan function the same way with numerous colleagues. It speaks to his persistence, his entrepreneurial spirit, his ability to see staff potential, and his willingness to move out-of-the-box to choose people and programs to meet health care goals in our local community of newly arrived Latino immigrants and Washingtonites [misspelled?], as well as in Thailand, Bangladesh and myriad places around the world.

While schools of public health function as centers of research and training of public health professionals, our Mailman School puts public service high on the agenda. Public service has been an integral part of the school's legacy and Allan's leadership and it is the hallmark of renowned that the

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school has achieved.

You might wonder why Allan has moved in this direction. A committed physician who sees the needs of people, not places, and recognizes that gaps in care constrain the healthy development of the individual. Allan deeply believes that health care is a right, not a privilege. And this belief is centered on universal access to quality care.

When we came to the community, residents had asked for help in preventing teen pregnancy. There were no services for this group and with Allan's usual focus on what was right, not how we would get there, we opened the first evening clinics and Presbyterian hospitals for anyone, let alone sexually active kids.

This program was followed by a range of other programs. There are just too many to take the time to go over tonight. But clinic visits, with the support of school hierarchy, when we moved into middle schools for young people, are now embedded in the hierarchal system and are an example of what others hope to do around the country.

Every time I would discuss the feasibility of a new setting to address the needs in the community, Allan never discouraged me, but rather would give me, what I call, his cloak of optimism that I could proudly wear as a shield against the naysayers. Allan has always prized those of his staff that

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revel in, what I would call, gutsy maneuvers. "You can do it" he always said. "It is the right thing to do." Despite his classical training, Allan has always supported the role of non-physician personnel, not only around the world, but obviously in the community as well.

And last, but certainly not least, Allan is used to standing to open doors to resolve our own health crises and those of our families, and especially our children. A very dear friend, who is here from Washington tonight said, "We are always going to need Allan in our lives. How are we going to get through this system?" He has served as an employment agency, personal support and a giver of advice. Cheryl Hilton and I were at another awards celebration for Allan last week, as the president has mentioned, given by the Global Health Council. And after all of the wonderful speeches from around the world, they gave Allan a stunning crystal ball that quoted TS Eliot. And it said, "Do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Thank you dear Allan. [Applause]

LEE BOLLINGER: And now, Senator Hillary Clinton.

[Applause]

SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON: Allan, I would like to congratulate you on your 20th anniversary as Dean of the Mailman School of Public Health at Columbia University. I know that I

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am echoing the sentiments of so many others when I say that you have had an enormous impact on improving health for people around the world. You have worked to ensure that we reduce the stigma of AIDS and address it as the global crisis it is, with ramifications far beyond the health care sector. And you have been tireless in your efforts to increase education and access to the prevention and treatment methods that have saved so many lives.

You have championed the rights of women to have access to health care, highlighting the importance of the mothers' health needs and any maternal and child health program. And working through the MTCT-Plus Initiative to insure that both women and their children would receive life-extending antiretroviral medications.

You have worked to help couples plan their pregnancies to ensure better health outcomes for their children and to reduce the burden of maternal mortality and morbidity. You have promoted access to contraception and education to help people all over the world take control of their reproductive health. And you have done this all while helping to lead the Mailman School, creating a home in which to train thousands of public health workers from the United States and around the world, and they are now working to meet the needs of the 21st century public health sector.

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For all of this, and so much more, we thank you for your efforts. And on a personal note, I thank you for your good advice, your support and good counsel and mostly for your friendship. I am so proud that you are my friend and you are one of my leaders and inspirations for what I try to think about and do on behalf of health. Thank you for everything Allan.

LEE BOLLINGER: Thank you to all the speakers and we will be back with more tributes to Allan in just a bit. Thank you.

[END RECORDING]