



An expression of Elias' sense of humour from his Season's Greetings card, 2007

Dr. Elias Mandel, MD, passed away on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. He was born and raised in Montreal, attended Westmount High School, and received his undergraduate degree from McGill University, Montreal. He attended graduate school overseas at the Universities of Paris and Fribourg, earning his medical degree with a specialty in Pediatrics at the University of Geneva, Switzerland. After serving residency at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, he set up private practice in suburban Chicago. Dr. Mandel had teaching affiliations with University of Illinois (Chicago), Northwestern University, Christ Hospital, and Rush Medical School. Dr. Mandel was active in many service organizations, notably VOSH International and Rotary International. With VOSH, he went on service missions to provide eyeglasses for the poor. He served as Governor for Illinois Rotary International and was part of the Rotary Intl. Polio Plus Committee that raised over \$240 million for childhood immunizations. Dr. Mandel had many accomplishments and varied interests, including travel and photography. He was multi-lingual and studied many subjects at

the University of Victoria. Other organizations with whom he was active include the Harborside Rotary Club and the Victoria Society for Humanistic Judaism. Dr. Mandel was a docent at the Royal BC Museum, the Victoria Maritime Museum, and the Victoria Tall Ships Society. Dr. Mandel travelled extensively overseas, with a particular love of Italy.

His presence in our department is still keenly missed, and was brought home to us in a particular way the academic year following his death, without his first-day visit (usually accompanied by flowers or a plant). It was then we were reminded with sadness that he was truly gone.

Despite his physical absence, he ensured that he would be well remembered within the Department of Hispanic & Italian Studies and within the University of Victoria. This is thanks to his very generous bequest. Members of this department speak often of him with praise and gratitude for his overwhelming generosity.

Knowing how much he enjoyed and valued travel and learning, the department decided to use his gift to help sustain our Study Abroad Program. By establishing a scholarship in his name, *The Elias Mandel Prize for Study Abroad*, the department is able to send more students to Italy and to various Spanish-speaking countries in order to study Italian and Spanish and to be immersed in a foreign culture. This substantial bequest will enable even more of our students to seek life-changing opportunities abroad for many years to come.