



CALDERONE PRIZE LUNCHEON AND AWARD

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Allan – Let me first share with you the e-mails I've received from members of the family who were unable to be here today. My husband, Joel, sends his congratulations from Boston. My sister, Maria, sends hers from Ohio, and my daughter, Ariana, who you know so well and have watched grow up, sends hers from Sciences Po in Paris. Joanna Steichen also sends her congratulations, as well as her heartfelt thanks for all you did for her several years ago.

We join to salute you because you have been a good shepherd, working with the Calderone family from the very beginning to create this important public health prize, a prize that honors individuals – like you – whose professional commitment and dedication have advanced the way public health is practiced all over the world.

We salute you because you brought on board top people to serve on the selection committee and structured this Prize to not only reflect well on the Mailman School of Public Health and Columbia University, but the field of global public health as a whole.

And we salute you for your energy and your determination to not only see this Prize succeed down through the years, but to expand its scope in order to better reflect the expanding and important role of public health in today's parlous world, where many critical health issues are at the forefront, and society is only now beginning to recognize just how important the field truly is.

We salute and we celebrate, happy that you have been well recognized for the important work you have done in sexual and reproductive health, maternal mortality, and the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Grateful that you have spent your life making the world a better

place for us to live. And pleased that you are receiving this honor today.

As Mother would have said in that glorious theater-trained voice of hers, if she could only have been here today – and you and I, in particular, regret that she could not – “Allan, you’ve always done so much for all of us. Now WHAT can we do for you?”

And that is the heart of the matter. For, certainly, bestowing this prize doesn’t begin to equal what you have given us for so many, many decades. So we will have to see this for what it is, a deeply felt but small honor, and deeply felt but small recompense in comparison to a stellar professional life writ large, like a constellation of stars, with a myriad of important and long-lasting achievements. Because of all you have done for so long, for so many of us, the scales will never be in balance.

I’d like to end with a quote from my great-uncle, the poet Carl Sandburg, who once said: “Valor is a gift. Those having it never know for sure if they have it till the test comes. And those having it in one test never know for sure if they will have it when the next test comes.” These words from a grand old man of poetry are a fitting tribute for a grand old man of public health, for I feel sure that everyone in this room will agree with me that valor is the one thing that Allan Rosenfield has had in abundance then, now, and forever.

I am so glad you were selected as the 2007 recipient of the Frank A. Calderone Prize, and I am honored to have had this opportunity to speak on behalf of the Calderone family and – if I may take the liberty – to speak for everyone in this room, and the school, and the country, and the world. We all thank you!