



CENTRAL OREGON
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To Whom It May Concern,

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For the past two years, I have had the privilege of welcoming Gary & Marlys Johnson to speak in my Medical Ethics class at Central Oregon Community College in Bend, Oregon. As you may imagine, this class revolves around some very difficult subject matter regarding ethical dilemmas within the complex world of today's healthcare.

Unfortunately, we seem to spend an immense amount of time covering all the things that can go wrong in medical situations that often lead to misfortune and heartache. This is precisely why it has been such a wonderful opportunity to listen to the Johnson's tells their story – a story of hope, determination, perseverance and enlightenment.

The Johnson's share their journey of taking an unfortunate, life-changing medical situation and turning it into a positive opportunity to move forward in life. Rather than giving in or giving up, they instead charge ahead and use it as chance to better their lives, by living healthier and happier, and cherishing every moment along the way. They have also used this as a stepping stool in helping others. To educate and inspire those whose lives they touch along this journey.

My students and I tremendously enjoy listening to the Johnsons and their story of inspiration. They have used their time to inspire and help others live a richer, fuller life. They have challenged us all to pause for a moment and realize how truly precious and wonderful life is – to live in the moment and appreciate the little things we often take for granted.

What I really appreciated from listening to the Johnsons was being able to see a perspective from both sides. Not only how living with cancer has affected Gary, but also how it has affected his wife, Marlys. It's not often you get to hear both share their feelings and personal insights.

I would highly recommend the Johnson's as inspirational speakers for any institution, company or group from either academia or the private sector. I believe they will touch the hearts of anyone that has the chance to listen. I know they have touched mine, and I will never forget their message.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Cornett, DMD
Central Oregon Community College