



## Daphne Elizabeth Bugental

January 31, 1928 - November 25, 2018

After a long and productive life, Daphne Bugental passed away from pneumonia on November 25, 2018.

Daphne was born in Santa Barbara January 31, 1928. After graduating from Santa Barbara High School and a brief time living in Portland, Oregon, she moved to Los Angeles to attend UCLA, where she earned B.A. in 1952 and then her Ph.D. in social psychology in 1964. She served as an adjunct professor at UCLA until returning to the Santa Barbara area in 1974 to join the faculty of UCSB. Her research encompassed human interactions of all kinds, focusing particularly on parent-child relationships.

Daphne's landmark scientific contributions led to significant reductions in child abuse. While she formally retired in 2011, she continued to teach seminars and write research papers for several more years.

In addition to her scientific and social contributions, Daphne served in many roles at UCSB, including Chair of the Psychology Department and Chair of numerous Academic Senate committees. Bringing together faculty across several departments, she founded the Interdisciplinary Human Development Emphasis. She authored and obtained passage for the faculty parental leave policy for the entire University of California System.

Daphne was honored with the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues Kurt Lewin Award, the Santa Barbara County Health "Researcher of the Decade" in 1997, and the 1996 UC Presidential Award for fostering Excellence in Undergraduate Research. For these accomplishments and contributions, she earned the vast appreciation of her colleagues, students, and the UC community.

Daphne is survived by her sons Rick Bugental and Scott Williams Bugental, her daughters-in-law Leah-Ann Williams Bugental and Sandy Gibson Smith, and grandson Jacob Smith. She is predeceased by her brother Frank Blunt, sisters Kathleen Blunt and Grace Cooper, and son Michael Smith.

A Celebration of Life for Daphne will be held at Welch-Ryce-Haider Funeral Chapel at 15 East Sola Street, Santa Barbara, on Saturday, December 8, starting at 10 a.m. Viewing will be at the Welch-Ryce-Haider Chapel in Goleta (450 Ward Drive) from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday, December 7, and at the Santa Barbara location Saturday December 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Remembrances may be shared at <https://www.wrhsb.com/obituaries/Daphne->

Bugental/.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations in Daphne's name to CALM (Child Abuse Listening Mediation; <http://calm4kids.org/> ) or to UNICEF (<https://www.unicef.org/> ).

# Events

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**DEC 7** **Viewing** 04:00PM - 08:00PM  
Welch-Ryce-Haider - Goleta  
450 Ward Drive, Santa Barbara, CA, US, 93111

**DEC 8** **Viewing** 09:00AM - 10:00AM  
Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown  
15 E. Sola St., Santa Barbara, CA, US, 93101

**DEC 8** **Celebration of Life** 10:00AM - 12:00PM  
Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown  
15 E. Sola St., Santa Barbara, CA, US, 93101

# Comments

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“ I never met Daphne Bugental, but I have read and learned much from her scientific papers. From her papers I always imagined her to be a clear-thinking, creative and compassionate person. I'm grateful for her contributions to developmental science and the wellbeing of parents and children.

**Merideth Gattis** - September 04, 2020 at 08:56 PM

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“ Daphne was my Graduate Advisor At UCSB in the 1980s. She taught me that academic rigor and working to help the under-served were far from mutually exclusive: rather, the synergy she created between the two made our work in her lab meaningful.

But it was also fun! Our Friday lab meetings (sometimes involving wine, if I recall correctly) were something I looked forward to every week. There, we would laugh, discuss each of our research projects (the atmosphere was always one of mutual support), discuss her on-going research at CALM, and talk about psychology in general.

Perhaps more importantly (no, I'll say equally important), Daphne was a friend, as well as a mentor, long after I left UCSB. Whenever I came down to Santa Barbara to visit friends, Daphne and I would go out to dinner (usually Chinese) and discuss what was happening in the lab, attribution theory in general, and what I was up to in the research (and clinical) world.

She was always both supportive and challenging, We laughed a lot, but never lost sight of combining academic rigor with helping those in need. She is one of the most influential people in my life, and her spirit will be with me wherever I go.

--Colin H. Sacks

**Colin H. Sacks** - May 06, 2019 at 04:19 PM

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“ (continuation of previous post!)

I got to know Daphne on a more personal level because I was officially Teddy's second mommy as well as house-sitter. Teddy was her beloved Yorkshire terrier and he was definitely a bundle of exuberant energy, sweetness, and unfettered loyalty. Whenever Daphne went out of town, I came over to take care of Teddy. It was a very sad day when I found out that Teddy passed away and I know how much Teddy meant to Daphne. He was a very lucky boy and I hope that Daphne is having fun reuniting with Teddy!

Daphne also LOVED chocolate, particularly the pairing of chocolate and raspberry. Whenever her birthday rolled around, I would always get her some treat with chocolate and raspberries. It was the little things that brought joy to Daphne.

We spoke every year around winter break or on her birthday. When we spoke, we talked about her various research projects and she always asked about my work as well as my children. In the last several years, I have faced certain challenges in my family life and Daphne was always there to tell it how she saw it. I always appreciated her brutal honesty and let's just say that she did not hold back her opinions!

This quarter I just finished teaching a Research Methods class. When I found out about Daphne's passing, I made a statement to my students at the beginning of class. I told them that my sadness was due to the passing of my graduate school advisor, Daphne Bugental. I said that my passion for teaching research methods and designs stemmed from the many hours of research experience and learning that I did as her undergraduate and graduate student. I have much gratitude to Daphne for having such an impact on my life and I am forever indebted to her. Much love Daphne.

In sorrow,

Eta

Eta Lin - December 21, 2018 at 10:15 PM

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“ It is hard to know where to start when trying to put into words the impact that Daphne had on me as an academic and as a human being. I first met Daphne during my junior year at UCSB. I took her Developmental Psychology class and I was hooked. She was not the usual professor who stood at the lectern and just talked at the students for the entire class period. She interspersed her lectures with cartoons, videos, entertained student questions, and she walked around the room! Daphne was extremely knowledgeable in the field, funny, engaging, and kind. It was a wonderful combination to see these qualities in a professor and it was a breath of fresh air in how classes were taught at the university level. When I landed my first real job, I did my best in trying to copy Daphne’s style of teaching.

As a senior, I was enrolled in the Honors Psychology Program. Under Daphne’s supervision, I conducted research on the pitch level of babies and their effects on women who differed in perceived power. This of course culminated in my senior honors thesis and I am thankful for all of Daphne’s unwavering guidance and support.

It was because of Daphne that I decided to stay at UCSB for graduate school. All of the wonderful formal and informal lab meetings that we had in the special barrack building off to the side of the Psychology Building. It was a special place where Daphne carved out her lab with my fellow graduate students, Judith, Keith, Trish, Gabby, and our many undergraduate researchers. I think that being physically outside apart from the Psychology building led us to have a sort of rebel mentality too. Daphne never fit neatly into a box and she was courageous and outspoken, especially when she got wind of any sort of injustice. In addition, Daphne was a HUGE animal lover! Of course she allowed us to bring our dogs to the lab. From a selfish perspective, I have to say that it was a luxury to be able to open the lab door, walk outside, sit on the grass underneath the huge elm tree, and hang out with my chocolate lab, Hoover. What a great way to alleviate some stress in graduate school too! As a side note, Daphne also made Hoover an honorary member of her lab.

As we all know, Daphne was a visionary. She created a huge research project in which we collaborated with the Santa Barbara County Health department. Her goal was to apply her findings on perceived power to help at-risk pregnant women in our community. I want to share one specific story about this project. One day, Daphne said that Trish and I were in charge of making a video to be used as a prototype for the mental health county caregivers to show at-risk pregnant mothers. I would play the role of a stressed mother with an infant with colic. Trish would play the mental health professional. I told Daphne that I thought that it was a stretch that I play an exhausted mother with a baby (I was NOT very confident in my acting skills), but Daphne had utter confidence that I could do it. After many takes, we were finally satisfied with our videos. Who knew that this experience would become reality when years later I had my first child who had colic. Although I was exhausted from staying up all hours of the night, my thoughts always went back to Daphne and how she unknowingly prepared me to cope with an infant with colic.

For those who did not know, but Daphne was a very talented artist too! She drew all of the pictures for the Parent Attribution Test (PAT) as well as pictures to depict

relationship dynamics. I also remembered Friday afternoon social psychology talks. To be honest, it was hard to be there because it was scheduled in the late afternoon on Fridays. One of the highlights during these talks was watching Daphne. Let me explain.....I would periodically glance over at Daphne and guess what she was doing? She was pencil sketching the speaker! I always marveled at how well that she captured the speakers in her drawings and I would tell her too!

(to be continued.....)

**Eta Lin** - December 21, 2018 at 10:13 PM

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“ Ah, where would I be without Daphne? There are so many of us who can say this, and I am glad that after a few twists and turns I ended up as a student in her lab in the early 80's. I had a lot to learn and life in the department was not for the faint of heart, but in the little lab building we could meet, work hard and support each other. Daphne created an atmosphere where we could grow, contribute to our common work, and learn from each other. While I will never had the impact that she has had I was able to take away the experience and I can try to pass on to my students what I got from our years together. Maybe she liked me because I could keep the computers running, translate for Hal, or that it just seemed I would never leave, but eventually I went on to my real job...but only after Daphne had me spend much of a winter holiday break locked in her house while I completed the final draft of my dissertation. So much fun, so much good work, and a challenge to be as good as she was everyday.

**Jeff Lewis** - December 10, 2018 at 06:32 PM

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## “ Beloved Daphne

Daphne, Daphne, Daphne.... How often did you tell us you planned to live to 98? I believed you, because I knew you well enough to know you never lie. Not only that, you left us just at a time when you were so excited about your potential for walking again. And then, when we weren't looking you slipped quietly away.... No drama. You died gracefully and peacefully, but also much to our surprise.

Daphne and I were destined to become close friends both because our respective colleagues deemed this outcome when I moved to Santa Barbara from Ohio (Ohio State University) and because it turned out we had much in common. Although in different wings of Psychology we both grew up in this field at a time when women our age had to go to great lengths prove themselves; so we bonded by recounting common 'war stories' in the academics of those days. We were also divorced women with grown sons we were always worrying over. So, over the past ten years we simply grew to love and depend on each other for small and large things. We talked at least once a day about all sorts of thing. In these discussions, she was surely the wiser one.

One thing was clear. It has been evident in the testimonials to her over the past few days. Daphne was unusual not only in her innate wisdom but in her capacity for sympathy and compassion. She was the most caring person I have ever met. She cared for living things (as has been jokingly noted even insects) ... these things included her history of pets (dogs, cats...). But most notably it extended to children of all ages whose care in some cases she was able to codify with the power of her groundbreaking research on family dynamics. Her research extended her values and her insights into right and wrong. This selfless attitude was directed not only to children and families that she studied, but it extended to laboratory 'family', namely to people who worked with her including undergraduates and graduates as well as friends.

We cannot underestimate the impact of Daphne's contributions to science. They are important and lasting. Likewise, she had a profound effect on the personal relationships she established with her family, friends and colleagues. She is a "one-of-the-kind" individual who will never be forgotten by her friends and colleagues. For me, not a day will go by that I do not miss her.

Mari Riess Jones

Mari Jones - December 10, 2018 at 03:57 PM

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“ Over the years, Daphne was not only my mentor, but a role model, a (tireless!) collaborator on research, and most importantly a friend. Her research focused on identifying the ways in which groups subject to social stigma (e.g., children born with medical adversity and older adults) are affected by the responses they receive from others and ways to mitigate those effects. While the work that we did together focused on older adults and ageism, her research investigating factors that lead some mothers to abuse their children and ways to prevent that abuse has touched many lives. I can only hope that one day my own research will have such an impact. I know I would not be where I am today without her guidance and support. I am so proud and grateful to be a small part of her legacy. Her tremendous influence in shaping the person and academic I am definitely shines through my teaching and scholarship. I will miss her!

**Jessica Hehman** - December 10, 2018 at 02:28 PM

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“ In behalf of Bert Moore, one of Daphne's very close friends and colleagues, I want to acknowledge her importance to Bert, their support for each other, in large and small ways, and their lively intellectual dialogues. It was a mutual and substantial friendship. Both of their lives were better for it. Dru Sherrod

**Drury Sherrod** - December 10, 2018 at 01:55 PM

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“ Daphne was a wonderful mentor to me early in my career - wise, kind, and fun! She made incredible contributions to family psychology, and touched so many lives.

**Charlotte Johnston** - December 10, 2018 at 10:53 AM

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“ Rick and Scott would like to thank everyone for sharing your thoughts, memories, and stories of our mom on this site, and also thanks to everyone who was able to come to the Celebration of Life yesterday.

**Scott Bugental** - December 09, 2018 at 03:28 PM

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“ 21 files added to the album Daphne-Family



Scott Bugental - December 09, 2018 at 01:53 PM

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“ From the day she joined the faculty of Psychology at UCSB in 1974, Daphne has been a close friend, confidante, and hero of mine. I have been awed by her dedication to doing socially meaningful research and her unwavering commitment to social justice. She was one of the bravest people I have ever known – never afraid to stand up to authority on behalf of the disadvantaged or to promote causes that she was passionate about.

Over the years we knew each other, I have so many memories of sitting at Daphne's kitchen table in her lovely house on Dena Way, discussing the state of the world and how we might help to build a better society. Even after I moved a far distance away, and our opportunities for get-togethers were limited, Daphne always kept two things in her refrigerator – a bottle of vodka and a jar of black olives – in readiness for my next visit whenever that might be.

In 2003 Daphne was honored with the Kurt Lewin award by the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. The Lewin award is given in recognition of a lifetime of social action research in our field, and I believe that Daphne was the most deserving recipient of this award ever in its history. To conduct rigorous empirical research that is also socially relevant and action oriented is something few people are able to accomplish, and Daphne did so for her whole career. She set a standard that I could never hope to live up to, but it gave me a model to strive toward in my own work.

She will be much missed.

Marilynn Brewer

Marilynn Brewer - December 09, 2018 at 01:01 AM

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“ Although I was in the Cognitive area, I became very close to Daphne. I was her first person to finish the interdisciplinary concentration in human development. She mentored me through so much, including balancing family and career. I will always treasure the day she took Matt and me to brunch with her other students.

**Valerie Sims** - December 08, 2018 at 04:20 PM

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“ I spent a sabbatical with Daphne in the late 90s. She and I shared an interest in cognitive processes that regulate parenting, and I had great respect for her work. She was a joy in every way: Smart, kindhearted, and always supportive. She helped me find an apartment, even visited some of them while I was still in Texas, and helped with the lease and related arrangements (pre-internet). Once my wife, daughter, and I arrived, Daphne helped us feel at home in countless ways. She went out of her way to integrate me into her lab. She arranged regular lunches, which were wonderful explorations of ideas, and dinners with the whole family. We developed a wonderful friendship. My wife and daughter still talk about her fondly. Daphne was not only a world-class academic; she was a wonderful caring soul. Ted Dix

**Ted Dix** - December 07, 2018 at 12:02 PM

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“ My first encounter with Daphne was when I called her from NYC to discuss her research. Sometime later, I became a student of Daphne’s and set upon a relationship that would change my life. Due to a hidden disability, I had some physical limitations, and Daphne served as my advocate in getting me necessary accommodations. As many will know, Daphne was a champion for those who needed one and she certainly was mine. I still recall Daphne (who was considerably older than me, although, as many can attest to, she did not like discussing birthdays) pulling a couch into the lab so I could lie down between classes and at lab meetings. Daphne was indefatigable when it came to helping out others.

With me lying on that couch, Daphne and I would spend countless hours in conversation concerning the most eclectic array of topics. We took great pleasure in such “spinning,” as we referred to it. This happened in lab meetings but also just between the two of us. This was not only fun but a great learning experience for me. As all who knew her are aware, Daphne was infinitely curious, possessing an encyclopedic corpus of knowledge derived from this curiosity.

I was able to visit Daphne the summer before last at her home. For my arrival, she had put out a lovely spread making me, as always, feel welcome (Daphne was good at that!). Over the years, we were able to visit in Santa Barbara, and several places in Canada (once when she received the Lewin Prize in Toronto and once when she gave an address in Montreal) and for her retirement (from teaching) party. Our conversations were much less frequent over the past few years but I thought of her often.

Recently, I had a chance to discuss the topic of parenting in my Social and Emotional Development class, a class fashioned on one that Daphne had taught, and for which I served as her teaching assistant. The topic for the past few weeks in my class has been parenting where I get a chance to discuss Daphne’s research. It is nice to be able to share her ideas and findings with a new generation of students. In my career, I have tried to be a good instructor and mentor to my students by assessing their current skills and challenging them within well considered but ever-expanding parameters, modeling Daphne’s approach in mentoring me. And then there is the importance of caring; Boy did Daphne care!

Daphne was also that rare breed of researcher able to move seamlessly from the lab to the field and back again in testing her hypotheses, balancing the advantages and disadvantages of each setting in identifying mechanisms of interest. In her work on parenting, this culminated in an intervention that allowed for an experimental test of the parental attributional processes underlying the physical abuse and neglect of children.

When I left UCSB 18 years ago, Daphne sent me a card with a photo of a sad-eyed cat on the front. Inside, she conveyed that she missed me. With her passing, I am feeling just like that sad-eyed cat. However, my consolation lies in how much of Daphne I carry with me, both in my mentorship of students, how I think about scientifically interesting questions and, more generally, in the person I hope to have become. To the extent to which I am successful at any of these, Daphne deserves a

lot of the credit.

**Keith Happaney** - December 06, 2018 at 03:13 PM

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“ Daphne was an exceptionally creative scholar. She also was a warm and generous colleague and a good friend. She and I used to always find time to sneak out of the SRC D conference to have fun together. I am greatly saddened at her loss and will miss her.

Nancy Eisenberg

**Nancy Eisenberg** - December 05, 2018 at 11:03 PM

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“ The last interaction I had with Daphne was when I contacted her to ask if it would be okay to acknowledge her in my book. I’m glad the last thing she heard from me was gratitude. When I arrived to graduate school, I was young and bullheaded and obstinate and sometimes she and I clashed. I was pretty bratty.

But even bratty and bullheaded, I learned a lot. I couldn’t help it. Daphne was a huge part of my life – not just figuratively. Literally. Where other graduate students would complain about never being able to get ahold of their graduate advisors, I was fairly certain Daphne had my phone number on speed dial and when cell phones became common I was scared to get one because I thought if I did, I would never be able to pretend to not receive a message immediately. I got far more feedback far more quickly on my writing than I wanted, even if it did make my writing much better. We had lab meeting after lab meeting after lab meeting (Daphne let us bring our dogs – something I found completely matter-of-fact then, and find completely astounding now). Sometimes we had these marathon day-long hauls where we were there for so long we started making horrible jokes that really weren’t that funny but we all laughed like maniacs anyway because we were tired and punchy from too much coffee. We practiced complicated experimental protocols where we all played parts and had scripts and ran through them over and over until everyone knew what to do and what to say, and then I spent long weekends at the lab where I collected vials of spit from babies and did my best to convince recalcitrant toddlers that when I played them in the practice sessions I had been far more cooperative and that it worked much better that way.

I remember taking classes from Daphne and learning about socialization processes. What I didn’t quite get at the time is how profoundly I was being socialized in other ways amid the hours all of us spent in the lab talking endlessly. And it wasn’t always just scholarly pursuits, although it was clearly that as well. It was other things too; sometimes big conversations about academic salary scales maybe, or about what things professors, especially women, could and should not say or do, other times maybe a stray note here and there about something I wouldn’t have thought to notice, or a short observation that it might not always be a great thing for someone to comment on how great of a smile you had. Things that I don’t think I always placed a lot of importance on at the time, but that resonated years later with me.

Here’s a story about Daphne. For my dissertation defense, she suggested in passing I might want to read an article. By this time, I had learned to listen to what she had to say so I read the article although it had little to do with my dissertation. My dissertation was on attachment, temperament and stress responses in maltreated Latino toddlers. The article (Bargh et al., 1995) was on automatic power-sex associations in sexual harassers. During my oral defense, one of my committee members asked a question that was perfectly answered using the article Daphne recommended I read. She predicted exactly what the other committee member would ask – hell, for all I know she led the conversation that way – and she made me look smooth and smart. That was Daphne.

I just received my book copies. I’m sorry that Daphne didn’t actually get to see it. I’d like to believe she’d read it and think she did a good job training me. I think she

knew, even before I said anything, how grateful I was for everything I learned from her and how much I appreciated everything she did for me. But I'm glad I said thank you to her, explicitly, directly, even if she didn't get to read my words.

What they said was this: To Daphne Bugental, my graduate advisor. Thanks for all the things I realized you were teaching me at the time you taught them to me, and for all the things I didn't realize you were teaching me until years later.

**Gabriela A Martorell** - December 04, 2018 at 11:04 PM

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“ Since moving from SB in 2016, Daphne and I spoke twice a month—Fridays at 9:00am PST. She'd ask about my family and I would tell her about my mischievous three-year old. She'd ask about my health and I would tell her of my difficulties avoiding the flu. She'd ask about my research and I would talk about manuscripts. She'd ask about a chapter we were writing together and I would remind her that the deadline was still (many, many) months away.

This was how so many of our conversations were structured and—I might guess—many of her conversations were like with others. At every turn that I would ask Daphne of her life, she would provide some info and then go back to insisting that she hear what I had to say about my own. She was genuinely interested in the lives and well-being of those in her life.

Daphne was also an advocate for those that she did not know personally but who she knew could benefit from some help. Daphne had a good instinct for spotting injustice and finding a way to address it. Her work in the UC system has benefitted women, students of color, and students with disabilities. Daphne's community work with women and children that are victims of abuse and neglect spanned 20 years. In the 1990s and early 2000s, Daphne combined her community work with her research program and created an intervention that continues to serve countless children that are at risk for abuse or neglect.

Daphne had her choice of “things to talk about” from her own life as evidenced above. She chose to hear about you. I will miss you Daphne.

**Randy Corpuz** - December 03, 2018 at 11:14 AM

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## “ My Tribute to Daphne

Mentor extraordinaire  
Constantly vigilant, persistent work  
Making a difference for  
Those underrepresented  
Women, persons of color, the disabled, the abused  
Quiet strength, grace, and intellect  
Her energy and beauty radiate  
Her inspiration lives forever  
A part of me  
A part of so many  
In our hearts and minds

I cherish and will certainly miss Daphne's energizing collegial spirit and loving friendship.

In loving spirit,  
Hsiu-Zu

Hsiu-Zu Ho - December 02, 2018 at 05:55 PM

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“ On the opening pages of my dissertation, I wrote that "Daphne will always hold a unique niche in my life. She is not only a mentor, but also a colleague, a friend and part of my extended family. I am going to miss the hours we spent talking in the lab about research, academia and life."

I spent a good chunk of my young adulthood alongside Daphne. Without her wisdom, generosity and support, I would not be where I am today. I know Daphne knew the impact she had on my life because I told her many times. However, I regret that I didn't tell her enough.

My close friends know that I am socially awkward (aren't we all). At times, I fail to show the depths of my love. Fortunately, I don't have this problem with my wife and son, but I know others may not know how much I care. I would like to publicly thank all of my lab mates who are not only sharing in my grief but were instrumental in shaping me: Keith Happaney, Trish Crane Ellerson, Gabi Martorell, Tarek Azzam, Dr. Alex Schwartz, Jessica Hehman and my honorary lab mates - Brandy Burkett and Allie Marie.

Daphne will be missed but the individuals mentioned above represent a small subset of the continuing legacy that Daphne leaves behind.

David Beaulieu - December 02, 2018 at 10:40 AM

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“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



David Beaulieu - December 02, 2018 at 09:29 AM