



Esther Kim

November 2, 1970 - March 3, 2022

Esther Kim passed away on March 3 with the love of God in her heart, her family, and the acceptance that Jesus Christ is her Lord and Savior. Her family and loved ones mourn her passing. Esther was born on November 2, 1970 in South Korea, emigrated to the United States as a toddler, and became a citizen.

Esther was a brilliant academic, talented in the visual and performing arts, and excelled in sports. In 1989, the year she graduated from high school, she was named a U.S. Presidential Scholar, one of the nation's highest honors for high school students, and won many music and art competitions. It was her time at Stanford University where she thrived. She participated in all the Stanford traditions and forged friendships and memories to last a lifetime.

Esther earned her Master's degree at the University of California in Santa Barbara. After working in clinical psychology, she found her path in academic advising at UCSB. She enjoyed helping students fulfill their academic goals and was an ardent advocate in helping them succeed and instilling hope in their futures after graduating.

Above all, Esther was a beautiful, fun loving soul and spirit with a heart of gold. She was devoted, loyal, loving, and protective of her family and closest friends. She was not a bystander. She was passionate in calling out the truth

and doing the right thing even if it meant challenging the rules.

Esther is survived by her parents, Dr. Young Cue Kim, MD and Mrs. Jung Ae Kim, her sisters, Eunhee and Julia, and her brother-in-law, John, many uncles, aunts, and cousins. Esther was preceded in death by her grandparents and her one true love who was the love of her life.

Esther's family would like to express their eternal gratitude to her doctors, in particular to Dr. Daniel Berger, MD and the care team at the Sansum Clinic and to Dr. Martin Weiss, MD and the care team at USC.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR **26**. 1:00 PM (PT)

Welch-Ryce-Haider - Downtown

15 E. Sola St.

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

(805) 965-5145

info@wrhsb.com

<https://www.wrhsb.com>

Tribute Wall

SR

“*Esther, you were such a light in this world. I will always cherish our many adventures as graduate students at UCSB. We worked so incredibly hard and yet somehow also found the time to enjoy the State Street scene (“we are only in our 20s once!”), take beautiful hikes along the hillsides and ocean cliffs, and laugh the night away while throwing a Friendsgiving “picnic in the living room” dinner party. Most vivid in my memories were those quiet times of conversation, connection and support. Esther, you were always so intuitive, so gentle. You never seemed to miss an opportunity to reach out to those in need, whether they knew they needed help or not (raising my hand now). I’m also so grateful we were able to keep in touch in the years that followed, even if just over lunch, with a funny email, or perhaps a quick text to say I hope to see you soon. Thank you for the gift of being you. I miss you. I will always remember your brilliant smile, that irresistible laughter of yours, and most especially, your beautiful, generous and loving spirit.*

Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff



Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff - March 28, 2022 at 01:54 PM

AN

“ Her welcoming warm & beautiful smile with a healthy dose of laughter & humor greeted me all throughout our UCSB days together! I fondly remember our conversations about family, Korean food (coke for sweetener in a bulgogi marinade & mung bean aka “fart” pancakes), relationships, & adventures to be had! And there were so many heart-to-heart walks, talks, dancing escapades, hikes, gym outings, & a moonlit beach soirée that still bring a smile to my face! Esther - you were such a bright light to so many! May you soar with the angels & feel all our love envelop you always!

Love & ALOHA , Annie ❤️💕❤️💕



Annie - March 25, 2022 at 06:06 PM

SJ

“ There are a few people in one's life they become not just close, but very close. Friends that you can count on, a shoulder to cry on are few and even more special. Some one to share your most vulnerable moments with the knowing your heart will be safe. Although our physical distance was great, our hearts were close. She was always there, always answered the phone when I needed her guiding light through words of wisdom and reason. Es never judged me, never had a negative word to say and always had a solution. I miss her laugh and our hours long conversations about anything. I also miss her home made pad thai May you rest in peace, you will forever live in my heart and my memory.

Steve Jordan

Steve Jordan - March 23, 2022 at 02:24 AM

MA

“ *Esther was a cherished friend of our son , Brett. He attended Stanford at the same time. By chance they reconnected at their 15th reunion and their relationship blossomed into a beautiful romance. After Brett was tragically killed in an auto accident in 2009, we continued the relationship with Esther. She became a good friend. We will miss her very much. Rest in heavenly peace dear Esther.*
Maya and Mike Allsop

maya and mike allsop - March 21, 2022 at 03:06 PM