



Dr. Brian E. Derrick

December 13, 1958 - June 12, 2018

Dr. Brian E. Derrick, professor of neurobiology in the Department of Biology and an investigator in the UTSA Neurosciences Institute at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA), died of natural causes on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Dr. Derrick was born in San Bernardino, California, and raised in Southern California. As a junior high and high school student, he often won first place in the California State Science Fair. He earned his B.S. in Psychobiology at the University of California, Los Angeles, and his Ph.D. in Psychobiology at the University of California, Berkeley. His areas of specialization included cognitive neuroscience, molecular mechanisms of synaptic plasticity, and neuropsychopharmacology. His work, which received more than 1,500 citations, has been published in "Nature," "Nature Neuroscience," "Journal of Neuroscience," and "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences." At UTSA, he was popular with many students in first-year and upper-division courses and coached students in the annual Brain Bowl competition held at UT Health San Antonio. He was also a champion of diversity including students and faculty of color and LGBTQ identity. One of his students, Loretta Jones, was one of the first 100 African American women to earn a Ph.D. in the biological sciences. Dr. Derrick's passions beyond science and education included traveling throughout the Caribbean and Western Europe; James Bond and film noir; the music of Elton John and Joni Mitchell; the writer Tennessee Williams; and his cats. He is survived by his sister, Michele and husband, Lyles Martin of Lake Charles, Louisiana; his

brother, Clyde Derrick of Claremont, California; nephew, Bill and wife, Ali Martin of Starkville, Mississippi; niece, Lauren Martin of Los Angeles; and many friends who loved him dearly. Those wishing to honor Dr. Derrick may contact UTSA College of Sciences, Office of the Dean, c/o Kim Fischer, Associate Dean for Development, the Dr. Brian Derrick Memorial Fund, One UTSA Circle, San Antonio, Texas 78249.

Tribute Wall

AK

“ *Dr. Derrick was the most influential professor I had during my undergrad and up to now we still kept in touch. His engaging teachings, charisma and caring personality captivated many. I was in his lab throughout the year in 2014 and he helped me until the very last day. I will never forget Dr. Derrick and wish all his friends and family strength and that we may rejoice in his memory.* ”

Alysson Klein - July 19, 2018 at 07:52 PM

BS

“ *My love and sympathy to Michele and Clyde - Betty Gibford Schlangen* ”

Betty Schlangen - June 24, 2018 at 04:09 PM

CB

Brian was a brilliant, kind, generous, clever, man who could make me laugh hysterically with a look or a word. A wonderful person.

Cindy Boyd - June 27, 2018 at 04:17 PM

CD

Betty and Cindy, my sister and I are very grateful for your comments! Clyde

Clyde Derrick - June 30, 2018 at 08:57 PM

CD

Thank you, Alysson! Clyde Derrick

Clyde Derrick - July 31, 2018 at 02:39 PM

LO

Brian was a colleague of my husband Joe; I met him at a neuroscience conference in DC, and we became friends, mainly via Facebook, a great vehicle for exploring our shared love of music, especially Joni Mitchell, and of cats. I dearly miss his insights, his humor, and his vision of social justice.

Laura O'Keefe - August 10, 2018 at 08:19 AM

BC

Brian was a colleague I remember fondly for his sarcastic wit and perpetual enthusiasm. Was just looking him up to ask a question about CA3 and surprised and saddened by his passing. He will be remembered fondly. My condolences to his friends and family.

Brian Christie - August 09, 2019 at 06:26 PM