

*Composed by Alumna Sarah Casey*

I've never done this kind of thing before, so I kind of wish that Dr. Colón were here to help me brainstorm ideas and revise my thoughts. As it is, I can't do justice to what she meant to her students, but I can offer a few stories that show what kind of professor she was.

She was passionate and engaging in the classroom. She convinced my husband to enjoy reading a George Eliot novel, which is a feat in itself. She was also exceptionally approachable. My friend Courtney, in the fall of her senior year, visited Dr. Colón during her office hours. Although they had just met, Courtney revealed to Dr. Colón that she was planning to drop the Honors Program, as she was daunted by the prospect of writing her honors thesis. A few days later, Dr. Colón offered to direct Courtney's thesis, even though they had just met, and Dr. Colón had never read the poem Courtney wanted to write her thesis on. That's the kind of professor she was: always generous with her time.

And so many students took advantage of her generosity because her advice was so good. For example, my younger sister, during an advising appointment with Dr. Colón, proposed taking a blow-off class to round out a difficult schedule. Dr. Colón refused to let her take this easy course, instead recommending that she register for Dr. Moore's Iris Murdoch course, which turned out to be one of my sister's favorite classes at Baylor. As this story suggests, Dr. Colón was one of the most demanding professors at Baylor; she didn't let us get away with sloppy thinking, sloppy writing, or even sloppy conversation. But this rigor was always tempered by her patience, humility, and gentleness.

Many students were drawn to her because she gave such good, practical, but salutary advice. I can't tell you how many people, in the last few days, have used the phrase, "She kept me sane." As for me, I also benefited from her good advice. As my time at Baylor passed, I found myself in Dr. Colón's office more than anyone else's, even though she wasn't my advisor or on my thesis committee, talking about *The Pulse* or my thesis, or even issues with family and friends.

I'll close with Dr. Colón's own words in an e-mail to another student: "Everyone needs help to embark on adulthood. Everyone needs a mentor, which is why we've taken Homer's perfectly innocuous character name and made it an overused byword. The test of success is not whether you can do it without help, but how well you use and benefit from the help you are given." All of this explanation was a preamble to Dr. Colón's offer, "Let me help you."

Thank you, Dr. Colón, for helping us. Thank you for "keeping us sane." Thank you for providing an example of the kind of teacher, scholar, and Christian I want to be. We wouldn't be where we are without you, and we will never forget you.