

Remarks for the Susan E. Colón Scholarship Fund Reception, April 30 2013

Good afternoon, my name is Wylie Wyman. Dean Hibbs has asked me to give a few remarks on Dr. Colón from the perspective of a student, and I admit that I feel inadequate to the task of describing someone so beloved by the students of the Honors College and the Baylor community at large.

I was Dr. Colón's student for only one term – the Fall of 2011, her final semester of active teaching at Baylor. So, like a handful of others, I knew Dr. Colón best from my involvement with *The Pulse*, Baylor's Undergraduate Research Journal, of which she was the Faculty Sponsor.

In both the classroom and in our *Pulse* meetings, however, Dr. Colón was unfailingly the same, leading the students well and with good humor.



When we read *Twilight of the Idols* in our University Scholars Capstone course in Great Texts, one of my classmates brought in a Nietzsche finger puppet. We passed it around the room, playing with it by turns and reciting phrases from the philosopher in a terrible, fake German accent. Dr. Colón humored our silliness well, laughing with us and seeming to enjoy the play before urging us to settle down and discuss the text at hand. Similarly, when at our *Pulse* Christmas party two years ago I made a truly hideous sugar cookie angel using Pringles for wings, Dr. Colón chuckled and teased, asking whether I'd ever tried to make a gingerbread house, and if so, how it had turned out – lopsided, possibly?

Dr. Colón was certainly someone with whom it was easy to laugh and be silly. Yet, at the same time, she was also someone with whom it was easy to be quite serious. Perhaps this seems like an obvious trait in a professor, and at Baylor, perhaps it is. But on the whole it seems that there are precious few professors who take their students quite so seriously as Dr. Colón did. She was someone with whom it was easy to converse about your hopes, fears, ideas about texts, and about the world around you, equally. And you were able to say these things because you could be sure that Dr. Colón would listen attentively and graciously, and would offer encouragement, wise counsel, and gentle admonition, when necessary. The knowledge that Dr. Colón would correct you if you needed it was – to me – a great gift. *At our age and in this age*, we are told that, as twenty-something's, our words and thoughts and ideas will be of import later: in the meantime, being young, we're free to make mistakes, and the consequences should not matter. All of my interactions with Dr. Colón lead me to believe that she could not have seen things more differently. She urged us to contemplate our beliefs, to consider seriously how they might be lived out, and to what effect; and, in accordance with this, she instructed us well in how to think critically, and modeled for us intellectual curiosity, neighborly love, and self-giving unto God that surely very few of us will soon forget.