

A Tribute to John

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I was lucky enough to be an undergraduate at UVIC while John was still lecturing. I'll never forget the experience of learning from him (... or the many quirky moments that highlighted the semester, such as the time he brought Yorick, a skull, to class...), though I might, sadly, forget the muscles of the pharynx. The information was challenging, dense, but creatively illustrated, with John frequently producing a series of intriguing sounds generally impossible to imitate. Moreover, I remember being particularly attentive at every 8:30 a.m. lecture, just so I wouldn't miss those moments when John's eyes would subtly twinkle and he would deliver some priceless moment of humor embedded in the midst of a cloud of information. And by the end of semester, we had learned the anatomy of speech as a dynamic whole; a systematic interweaving of systems and synergies.

I remember being particularly fascinated during one lecture on the anatomy of the inner ear. I couldn't resist staying after class to ask a few more questions. John was apparently delighted to satisfy my curiosity. In his generosity and enthusiasm, he soon provided me with more information than I could comprehend, but his expertise was so intriguing and inspiring that it awoke a similar kind of enthusiasm. And certainly, this conversation was followed by others like it...

Now as an MA student in the department, I continue to be awed and inspired by John, his questions, his ideas and his knowledge. Each meeting with John, whether in the lunchroom, hallway or office, is rich with humor, facts, ideas and quirky creativity. Thank you, John, for all you contributed to the education of the students in the department. We certainly hope you will continue to be around.