



Michael D. Smith

July 20, 1969 - February 3, 2019

Afterglow

I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one.
I'd like to leave an afterglow of smiles when life is done.
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.
I'd like the tears of those who grieve, to dry before the sun;
Of happy memories that I leave when life is done.

Memorial donations can be made in Mike's name to:

The Kidney Cancer Research Alliance (KCCure)

<https://kccure.org/donate/>

Events

FEB **Celebration of Life** 02:00PM - 03:00PM

9

Liberty Road Chapel

3767 W. Liberty Road, Ann Arbor, MI, US, 48103

FEB **Visitation** 03:00PM - 06:00PM

9

Liberty Road Chapel

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Comments



“ So many memories of Mike, and in all of them he's smiling and laughing. He will be missed by many. Our condolences to all Mike's family. Rachel and Pete

Rachel Lee - February 12 at 12:22 PM



“ I have very fond memories of Mike. We worked together for years at Pfizer in Ann Arbor and I most appreciated his sense of humor and the occasional catch ups on families and kids we managed to squeeze in between the mounds of work. I have amusing memories of traveling to a meeting circa 2012, and running through the Atlanta airport trying to catch a connecting flight because Mike thought we might as well walk between terminals rather than take the train (because concourse A can't be that far from concourse C he said ;)). I am so saddened by the news of his passing. Definitely gone too soon.

Isabelle Davignon - February 10 at 12:10 PM



“ Thoughts of a lovely nephew with a smile to light up a room. Best wishes to all Mike's family. X

Sue Cooke - February 09 at 04:00 PM



“ Heart's Companion Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael D. Smith.



February 08 at 07:55 PM



“ TD Bank Group (London, Ontario & Lewiston, Maine) purchased the With Our Deepest Sympathy Gift Basket for the family of Michael D. Smith.





“ Ruishan Wu, Jake Liang & Family purchased the Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet for the family of Michael D. Smith.



Ruishan Wu, Jake Liang & Family - February 08 at 03:40 PM



“ I'm so sorry to hear the news of Mike's passing. Myself, Sheila D. and Mike all started about the same time as new statisticians at Pfizer. He was great company and as many others have said - always smiling! We lost touch when I left in 1998. Condolences to family and friends and thinking of you all. Katherine Tucker (Macey).

Katherine Tucker - February 08 at 10:37 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael D. Smith.



February 08 at 05:56 AM



“ So many happy memories here and everyone knows the smile. I can't think of Mike without thinking of the smile and the way his hair flopped as he walked along, usually giggling about something silly. He was a massive influence in my life and career and taught me so much in my early days at Sandwich. He showed everyone it's ok to be passionate about stats and yet still be normal! He was so patient and generous with his time and knowledge and every message was delivered with the perfect balance of sincerity and humour. There will never be another Mike and the fitting tributes are all here. To have such an impact in such an unfairly short life shows the true measure of the man.

If we are all so deeply saddened by this I can't begin to imagine how the rest of his current friends and his family are feeling and my heart goes out to you all, especially Hardeesh and the children. We will help in whatever way we can.

Mike made those Pfizer Sandwich days so special. I have a constant picture in my mind of sitting around the canteen table every day practically spitting my food out as I laughed so hard at something hilariously silly Mike said, or him teasing Leu. And yet I also remember him patiently sitting writing out by hand SAS code for me explaining what each line did, for me to then type up and feel I had written myself!

Thank you Mike, you made life great. Never forgotten.
Gemma xxx

gemma hodgson - February 08 at 02:41 AM



“ Firstly my deepest sympathies to Hardeesh and her family. Even though I haven't seen Mike in many years I am beyond saddened by this terrible loss.

Mike had such an impact on me and so many while working at Pfizer. He was my supervisor straight from university for five years. He is honestly one of the kindest mostly selfless people I've worked with yet (met) beyond intelligent and hilariously funny.

He taught me so much in those first few years and always kept things light hearted and stress free. I will always remember his smile and especially the look he could give to persuade anyone of his idea. He also had a rare talent of never making you feel stupid no matter what questions you asked. He would champion anyone that worked for him and his ego or personal recognition was never considered.

I reached out to Mike in recent years when I was living in the USA and as always he did not hesitate to help me out with my rusty programming. He updated me on how happy he was living in the USA and proud he was of his family and wonderful children. I hope they can take some comfort in how many people admired their amazing dad/ husband.

zoe clarke - February 08 at 02:03 AM



“ Dear Hardeesh,
Given how upset I'm feeling to learn of Mike's passing although I last worked with him at Pfizer so long ago, I can't imagine what you are going through. My thoughts are with you and your family as I'm remembering how nice, easy and often fun it was to work with Mike back in Sandwich days.

Hans Hockey, NZ

Hans Hockey - February 07 at 06:58 PM



“ Michael and I bonded when I was working on a variety of prior distributions for an extremely rare safety event. This work was part of a broader effort to define go / no go decision criteria to continue development of a novel anti-cancer therapy. I hassled him mercilessly until I got his interest piqued, and then he took the bait and now it was WE were working on a variety of prior distributions!

It was an absolutely wonderful (for me) time. There is a bronze sculpture in Ingalls Mall, between the Michigan League and Burton Tower, called 'Sunday Morning in Deep Waters' that certainly captures the joyful sentiment of our collaboration. Come spring I plan on pausing when I pass the fountain and reflect again on this gracious and generous soul.

In summary, to me Michael was more artist than abacus. I wish I knew him longer and I am grateful for the time he shared with me.

Carl Dmuchowski
7 February 2019

Carl Dmuchowski - February 07 at 05:42 PM



“ I will always remember Mike with his smile. One of the few people who have impressed me with their razor sharp intellect. Mike had the knack of convincing one that his reasoning was correct and yet make both of us smile! A great loss, so young with yet so much to give. We are left with memories and yes that smile!

Nandan Koppiker - February 07 at 09:57 AM



“ Rita Clark Zac and Alaina Whidby purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Michael D. Smith.



Rita Clark Zac and Alaina Whidby - February 07 at 09:49 AM



“ It's difficult to absorb this news. On a professional level, Mike often had the knack of leaving you feeling you didn't actually know as much about statistics as you thought you did. Which is a good thing. On a personal level, I loved Mike's sense of humour, as many of us did. He made me laugh - a lot - and then he would mimic my laugh, which made me laugh even more. A glorious feedback loop. My brother moved to

Brighton, Michigan in 2000 and I visited my brother often. I always meant to look Mike up after hearing he had moved to Ann Arbor, which is nearby. But as things happened (or, more accurately, didn't) I never got around to it. That's a pity. I can't begin to comprehend the magnitude of the loss Mike's family must be feeling now. My heartfelt condolences.

Scott H

Scott Haughie - February 07 at 06:11 AM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Michael D. Smith.



February 06 at 05:24 PM



“ Hardeesh - I'm so sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you and your family as you adjust to life without the loving presence of Mike. - Carolyn Herrmann

Carolyn - February 06 at 12:55 PM



“ I think a lot about the happy times with my best Pfizer friend. I have been scared all year hoping not hear the tragic news about Mikes passing. The daily laughter we shared will always stay with me. He found life immensely amusing. We laughed often especially about silly things. I fondly remember that he found it amusing when my glasses would constantly slip down and I would have to push them back slowly and deliberately with one stretched out finger. He once gave a serious statistical presentation via a VC from USA, but could hardly continue his talk due to a fit of giggles when he saw me in the UK, looking over the top of my glasses with a waiting stretched out finger. No one else knew why he could not continue. We both loved recollecting that happy day. Another time the stats group had to help improve a Schools staff room as a team building day. Again we spent the whole day laughing, when he tried to reduce a sharp corner on a kitchen worktop, but slightly over zealously ended up removing most of the catering area for teachers to put their tea cups. Mike was an exceptional statistician and personal friend. I will always remember him. My sincere condolences

leu



ieu jones - February 06 at 07:10 AM



“ Thank you for the photo Ieu, a great memory. I have lovely memories and you and Mike and so much lunchtime laughter. Zoe x

zoe clarke - February 08 at 02:06 AM



“ Very sad to hear this news. Like all others in Ieu's photo above we had a real privilege to know Mike and spend great times together at Pfizer. Great memories.

My sincere condolences

Janice

Janice Branson - February 08 at 09:02 AM



“ Oh no. I am so saddened to hear this. He was quite simply one of the best. It is perfect that the pictures here all show that smile. I never recall seeing him without it, even (especially?) when he was persuading me that his proposed way forward was better than mine. It was a privilege to know him.

My thoughts and prayers with Mike's family and loved ones.

Dr Suhail Nurbhai
Bishops Stortford, UK.

Suhail Nurbhai - February 06 at 04:54 AM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Michael D. Smith.



February 05 at 04:32 PM



“ Whenever Mike’s name is mentioned, three specific occasions come to mind.

The first is the first time that I became aware of Mike, though it obviously wasn’t the first time we had met. There was an RSS local group meeting, in Wye I think. Mike was just finishing his PhD and needed a lift back into Canterbury. I offered to help him out.

Driving back along the A28, very politely, but equally firmly, he gave me the third degree about why he hadn’t been offered a job when he’d been interviewed at Pfizer as an undergraduate. I’d been the organiser of the interview process, so it was down to me to explain why we’d made the wrong decision. To be honest, I couldn’t remember him from Adam, and I wittered on about “many able candidates, all of whom could do the job”, so we usually had to choose on gut feeling about who we felt would best fit in at the time. Now he had a PhD under his belt, he was clearly a stronger candidate, and there was no reason why he should try again. Back in the office, I made a note of his name, and was very glad to see it on the interview list later that year and even more pleased to end up working with him on the sildenafil project.

A few years later, I had been seeing Ingrid for a while, but we hadn’t yet “gone public”. Coincidentally, Ingrid was one of Hardeesh’s best friends, so we hatched a plan to “come out” to Mike and Hardeesh before anyone else. We invited them round for a meal at Ingrid’s house in Blean. We put my car in the garage, Ingrid’s on the drive and I hid in the kitchen. Ingrid gave Hardeesh an errand that meant she had to come into the kitchen. She opened the door, saw me, and froze. Several seconds elapsed in silence. Then she shouted “Mike! Come here! Now!”. Mike obliged and as soon as he saw me, burst out laughing. After we had explained what was going on, the two of them grinned like Cheshire cats for the rest of the evening, all the while cursing us under their breath for the dirty rotten trick we’d just played on them.

Move on a few more years and Mike and Hardeesh are about to leave for the States. Mya had been living with us for only a few weeks, although we hadn’t yet formally adopted her. Ingrid, Mya and I go to their leaving party. Maddie looks very grown up (older than Mike, in fact – how does he look so young?) and elegant and happy in her shalwar kameez and all the children play together like they’ve known each other for ever. Mike joins in the horseplay, giving piggy backs, letting them jump on him... A happy day, tinged with sadness at the knowledge that two special people whose friendship we valued would inevitably play a lesser role in our lives from now on.

Those are particular memories. But my abiding impression of Mike has, and always will be, his impish smile. It has been enough to give me lift, even on the darkest of days. And it still will, whenever I think of him in the years to come.



“ Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Michael D. Smith.



February 05 at 10:52 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Michael D. Smith.



February 04 at 07:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Mike Smith



the kowalk - February 04 at 03:42 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Mike Smith



Nie Family Funeral Home & Cremation Service - February 04 at 12:40 PM