

Miguel Eckstein and Maria Acosta

December 2, 2023

Dear Leda,

I know many people are set to speak tomorrow and it will be very busy for you. So I wanted to share with you a few thoughts.

Even though I was not as close to John as Jim and others in the dept., I always felt invigorated by our encounters. He always was kind to me, even when I was new to UCSB. Always with a smile on his face and interested in it all. That curiosity! I see that many faculty 's flame to learn and explore fades as they get older. I even see it a little in my generation already. Not John. I loved that curiosity, that drive to dissect things and connect findings and theories at a deeper level. He honored that tradition of academics as real thinkers, that I fear we are losing. He illuminated those Sage dinners and always made me feel that I was part of something important.

In Argentina we use a phrase: “Ese model no se hace mas”.. which translates to “they do not make those models any longer”. It originally was used to refer to old models of watches or cars that were made with a quality not encountered in the models today. But we now use it to describe those unique individuals that are special. I will miss John.

Maria and I have been thinking about you and knowing you have many people in your life, do reach out for anything even it is to have a coffee or a quick talk. We are Latin Americans. You can give us little notice or show at our door. It is all good.

Sending lots of love your way,

Miguel and Maria