

Eulogy for Allan McCutcheon Eulogy at the 2016 MAPOR Conference

By René Bautista

- Thank you Rick and Paul for organizing this remembrance in honor of Allan McCutcheon. Your words about Allan are a testament of his many accomplishments and contributions to our field.
- Good afternoon. I'm Rene Bautista. I'm a Sr. Methodologist at NORC at the University of Chicago. I was the last doctoral student that Allan McCutcheon hooded from the Survey Research and Methodology program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.
- I have had the privilege to call Allan a mentor over the past 10 years. Today, it's been 200 days since he passed away. I miss him every day.
- As with many other students, I enrolled in a doctoral program, and specifically in the SRAM program, because Allan was a great inspiration to me. The great number of messages and kind words posted immediately after his passing, by his students on Facebook, show what he meant to many of us.
- His academic and professional career is indeed impressive. And it is equally impressive to know how dedicated he was to his students; how deeply involved he was with their careers. While he always encouraged independence, he gently guided the footsteps of many methodologists. They now serve in different roles at major institutions as successful professionals. That's his legacy.
- I'd like to share a personal memory about him. I was in my first year of graduate school. I was adapting to a new country --this country. I was learning a new language, adjusting to new academic standards, and I was a new parent. I got a "C" in a math class --a calculus class. I sent him an email, and he asked me to meet him the next day. I was terrified that he would be upset; that I'd lose funding. But instead of meeting an angry-looking professor, he took me out for lunch. He even brought a gift for me. He gave me a book titled "A Tour of The Calculus" by David Berlinski. Allan told me that grad school was about not giving up; it was about perseverance and discipline. It was about passion; it was about life. That same year, I was able to publish my first peer-reviewed article on a well-regarded journal. He instilled confidence in me. That's how he taught.
- In addition to his impressive professional career, Allan was a good friend to so many. We shared many passions over the years, including exit polling. He invited me to come as Election Night analyst to Edison Media Research to join a team of experts led by himself and Joe Lenski. I invited him to come to Mexico to do exit polling as well, and join a team of experts led by Francisco Abundis (here in the audience). I never stopped learning from Allan.
- He and I shared a passion for social research. He and I grew close over the years. We became friends. We spent hours discussing the complexities of polling and the future of the industry. We met every time he was in town for the MAPOR conference. We'd discuss art, music, books, and his favorite topic: food. I miss him every day. His teachings will live through his students.

Thank you for remembering him.