



## David Bernhardt Estell

June 29, 1973 - February 19, 2019

David Bernhardt Estell of Bloomington died on Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at the age of 45, following a brief bout with an aggressive form of cancer. He will be sorely missed by his family and friends. David was born on June 28, 1973, in San Diego, California, and spent much of his childhood in Ridgecrest, California, where he formed a number of lifelong friendships. He received a B.S. in Psychology from the University of California at Davis in 1995, and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2001. After a postdoctoral year at UNC, he began teaching at Indiana University Bloomington as Assistant Professor in the School of Education in 2002. He was promoted to Associate Professor and granted tenure in 2008, and served as the head of both the Human Development and Education Psychology programs. His research interests included social development broadly, with an emphasis on peer relations and peer dynamics. He was committed to the success of his students, who have gone on to become tenured professors at public and private teaching and research universities. David was a devoted father of two girls, with whom he shared his love of science and his interests in Star Wars, Doctor Who, and How to Train Your Dragon. He first experienced Star Wars with his family as a child, and was excited to share his love of the series with his own children. He befriended almost every animal he ever met. He not only adopted his cats from local rescue organizations, but also helped to support their cause. His ideal family vacation involved chances to interact with as many animals as

possible, and he took the girls on a trip last summer to do just that. He was delighted and humbled to watch them grow. David is survived by his daughters, Eleanor, age 9, and Lillian (Lily), age 3, of Bloomington; his former wife, Carolyn Munk Estell, of Bloomington; his father, Robert Estell, of Bloomington; and his brother, Michael Estell, of Brookline, Massachusetts. He was predeceased by his mother, Helen Estell. A memorial service will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 9, at Allen Funeral Home in Bloomington. Donations in David's memory may be made to the college savings plans of Eleanor and Lily; please contact Allen Funeral Home for further information. You are invited to share a memory or leave a condolence for David's family at [allencares.com](http://allencares.com)

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

MAR 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

Allen Funeral Home and Crematory  
4155 S. Old State Road 37  
Bloomington, IN 47401  
(812) 824-5905  
<http://www.allencares.com>

# Tribute Wall

IS

“ *Isabella Strand lit a candle in memory of David Estell*



---

**Isabella Strand** - October 26, 2023 at 10:12 AM



“ *Anne Napoli lit a candle in memory of David Estell*



---

**Anne Napoli** - July 12, 2023 at 08:07 AM

JA

“ *Dave and I met in our first year of grad school at UNC (on the first day of orientation!). We became great friends and lived together for 4 years. Dave's sense of humor and sarcasm always made him great fun to be around. After we each moved on to jobs outside of Chapel Hill, I was inspired by how much he loved and cherished his daughters and (of course) his continued love of his pets. I will miss him tremendously. Rest in peace, Dave.*

*Jason Arndt*

---

**Jason Arndt** - March 08, 2019 at 02:40 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of David Bernhardt Estell.



March 08, 2019 at 11:46 AM



“ Very sad to hear of David's passing. He was a good man and a fine colleague. I met him as my career at IU was winding toward retirement but we had a number of opportunities to get to know each other. He gave a guest presentation about his academic work in several of my classes and it was always rated highly by my students. I especially liked his sharp but subtle sense of humor. I remember one Halloween he became "Silent Bob" of Jay and Silent Bob and he absolutely nailed it. He will be missed.

Don Cunningham - March 07, 2019 at 08:50 AM



“ Healing Tears - All Pink was purchased for the family of David Bernhardt Estell.



March 07, 2019 at 07:11 AM

KM

“ I met David when I was a graduate student at IU. He was an unofficial advisor to me, served on my dissertation committee, and most importantly, friend. He was incredibly supportive, caring, understanding, fun-loving, friendly, and at times, wonderfully silly. I'll miss him. Rest in peace, my friend.

Kand McQueen - March 06, 2019 at 02:37 PM

RO

“ I met David in birth class ten years ago. We became friends soon after we all had our babies. I loved David's sense of humor and his perspective on life. ❤️ What an amazing friend.

Rose - March 05, 2019 at 08:46 PM



“ Healing Tears - Blue and White was purchased for the family of David Bernhardt Estell.



March 05, 2019 at 04:32 PM