



CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF

BEN TASKAR

1977–2013



DECEMBER 2, 2013

WU & CHEN AUDITORIUM, 101 LEVINE HALL



CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF BEN TASKAR

BenTaskar was a brilliant computer scientist with an infectious passion for the field. He was charming, kind, and humble, with a ready smile and an ever-present twinkle in his eyes. He was a source of joy to all who knew him. He had a legendary love of dancing, a daredevil streak in his life and travels, and an irrepressible, irreverent mirth. He was an avid skier and tennis player and loved Leonard Cohen, Manu Chao, Vijay Iyer, and other musicians who crossed genre boundaries. Far from being weighed down by the challenges in his life, he was a ray of sunshine to family and friends.

There was an ease and warmth about him that made you feel like he had been your friend all your life, even if you had just met him five minutes ago. Months after he left Penn, he was still one of the first to congratulate his former colleagues on any of their accomplishments – it was as though he never left us.

Ben described his wife Anat as his soul mate; his daughter Aviv was the center of his world.

His death leaves a gaping hole in our hearts.

Opening

Rev. Charles Howard, University Chaplain

Remarks

Dean Eduardo D. Glandt

Video Clip of Ben’s Lecture

Dr. Kostas Daniilidis

Dr. Michael Kearns

Dr. Jianbo Shi

Jenny Gillenwater

Dr. Sasha Rakhlin

Dr. Lyle Ungar

Dr. Sampath Kannan

Photo Collection

Slideshow

Closing

Rabbi Michael Uram, Penn Hillel

Music Selection

"Set Me As A Seal" & "One Hand, One Heart" by the Penn Glee Club



Reception to follow