



Natalie R. DelBusso

February 13, 1990 - August 9, 2021

Natalie R. DelBusso, age 31, of Phoenixville, Pennsylvania, passed away on Monday, August 9, 2021. Born on February 13, 1990 in Bryn Mawr, PA, she was a daughter of Linda S. Thomas, of Phoenixville and Steven F. DelBusso, husband of Sharon B. Robinson, of Denver, Colorado.

Natalie attended Kimberton Waldorf School until her sophomore year after which she attended Montgomery County Community College and completed independent work, graduating in 2008. She attended Ursinus College, where she was invited to join the Phi Beta Kappa honor society. Natalie graduated valedictorian in 2012 with a degree in Anthropology. Natalie received her PhD in Linguistics in 2018 from Rutgers University in New Jersey. She then completed a postdoc at Cornell University in N.Y. Through her articles and collaborations, she was already well-known for her intellectual intensity and for her ground-breaking work in theoretical aspects of the field.

Natalie's passion was linguistics, but she also greatly enjoyed the design and construction of original knitted items, where she excelled using her technical and creative skills. Natalie enjoyed literature, science, vacations at the ocean, and spirited, intellectual conversation.

Natalie lived with courage and integrity, both in her private life and in her life as a citizen of the planet. She was a proponent of human rights and

sustainable living practices.

In addition to her parents, Natalie is survived by her sisters: Leigha G. DelBusso and Sonia R. DelBusso, both of Los Angeles; and paternal grandparents: Michael A. and Constance M. DelBusso, of Michigan. She was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents: James A. and Nancy W. Thomas.

Services will be held privately at the convenience of the family. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Natalie's name to one of the following organizations: American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Civil Liberties Union, Earthwatch Institute, National Public Radio, Online Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences, and Union of Concerned Scientists. Arrangements are being handled by the Campbell - Ennis - Klotzbach Funeral Home, Inc. Condolences may be offered online at www.PhoenixvilleFuneralHome.com.

Tribute Wall

MH

“ My deepest condolences to Natalie's family. I knew the knitting side of Natalie very well, because she was the technical editor for my knitting book that was published in March. I loved working with her because she was kind, patient, meticulous, organized, encouraging, good at math, and incredibly quick and responsive. The designs in the book used a new approach to construction, and she had a tremendous amount of influence on how the patterns were structured and expressed. Had she allowed it, I would have given her much more credit for and in the book, but she just wanted to be mentioned in the acknowledgements. She was working with me on two follow-on books, and I will miss her very, very much.

Margaret Holzmann - September 06, 2021 at 02:23 PM

BH

“ Natalie's knitted miniature stocking Christmas ornaments are always and will always be a special part of decorating the Christmas tree each year.

Brooks Hall - September 04, 2021 at 04:28 PM

BB

“ Deepest condolences to the family in the passing of beautiful Natalie. You all are in my prayers.



Barb Best - September 02, 2021 at 02:54 AM

MS

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Natalie was a kind soul and I'm glad I got to spend some time with her on this earth. I first met Natalie's mother at a Farmer's Market where I was selling alpaca yarn. She told me what an avid knitter Natalie was and that's how our relationship began. Natalie created beautifully knitted items and we put together kits with her elaborate designs. She loved working with my alpaca yarn and even gifted me with a pair of socks to wear to bed. She was truly an artist that worked with precision and thoughtfulness. I remember her refusing to use yarn with any remnant of silk because of the unethical treatment of silk worms. We stuck to 100% or blends with merino or bamboo after that enlightening discussion. Over the years we developed more of a friendship through her love of creating. She willingly entered 3 items into a contest for our state alpaca show. She took first place in each category. I wasn't surprised at all even though she was competing with some of the top fiber artists in our state. But the ribbons didn't mean much to her. I think she was doing it more for me and to show off the yarns. I will treasure each one of those items now. I will miss her intellectual conversations and her creative spirit. My heart goes out to all who knew her so much better than I did. Peace!

Marcia Silkroski - August 31, 2021 at 01:11 PM

SR

“ I am very sorry to hear about Natalie's passing. Natalie was my instructor for computational linguistics in 2019, and has had an ever-lasting impact on the way I conduct research. If it wasn't for her support at the beginning, I wouldn't have had the confidence to push through in the field. She spent a lot of time helping me find readings that interested me, and made the time to chat with me as I developed my research ideas. She also voluntarily navigated the overwhelming graduate school application process for me. I am very grateful to her and will miss the conversations we had. My deepest condolences to the DeBusso family.

Sam Ryb - August 24, 2021 at 01:00 PM

ND

“ Natalie and I were only a year apart in grad school. When we were both working on our qualifying papers and dissertations, we had regular "work pacts" where we'd sit and work together, either at a coffee shop or someone's apartment. Once we had a work pact at my apartment, right after I had gotten a new kitten. While we could usually get a few hours of work in, Natalie had to leave after about 15 minutes because the cat wouldn't stop climbing on her and her laptop. While we were both very amused, I don't blame her for ending this particular work pact early 😂

My condolences to all her friends and family. You are and will be missed, Natalie.

Nick Danis - August 22, 2021 at 05:05 PM

KN

“ I so sorry to hear about Natalie's passing. May she rest in peace. Sending peace, love and strength to Linda, Leigha, Sonia and Steve.

Kate Netwal - August 21, 2021 at 10:07 AM

IR

“ Irena lit a candle in memory of Natalie R. DelBusso



Irena - August 20, 2021 at 08:29 PM

TH

“ 7 files added to the album *Natalie*



thomas.Linda64 - August 20, 2021 at 05:27 PM

TH

“ 1 file added to the album *Natalie*



thomas.Linda64 - August 20, 2021 at 03:42 PM

LT

“ *Let This Darkness Be A Bell Tower*
by Rainer Maria Rilke

*Quiet friend who has come so far,
feel how your breathing makes more space around you.*

*Let this darkness be a bell tower
and you the bell. As you ring*

*what batters you becomes your strength.
Move back and forth into the change.
What is it like, such intensity of pain?
If the drink is bitter, turn yourself into wine.*

*In this uncontainable night,
be the mystery at the crossroads of your senses,
the meaning discovered there.*

*And if the world has ceased to hear you,
say to the silent earth: I flow.
To the rushing water, speak: I am.*

Linda Thomas - August 18, 2021 at 06:44 PM

TB

“ *My deepest condolences to the DeIBusso and Thomas families. I'm
so very sorry for your loss. I will keep you all close to my heart
during this very difficult time.*

Terri Beal - August 18, 2021 at 05:48 PM