Soft Matter



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Ulli Steiner: perfect colleague

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I have known Ulli since I moved to Camhis way with students, where he challenged bridge in 2007, and you could not wish for a them, but saw how much they could take, more steadfast colleague. He was always the and nurtured them graciously. Ulli was fully person I could depend on to say "why aware of the significant burdens and hurnot?". Nothing fazed him. For any sort of dles for many researchers in science, particularly from their different backgrounds, science collaboration, he would unfailingly and enthusiastically put me right on what I and found many ways to support them. hadn't quite thought about. And he was up He also instituted the scheme for avoiding for every opportunity to bring together and evening career talks becoming dominated socialise with students. My highlight was by a few people - anyone who asked anyalways our joint Winter schools that he thing had to drink a shot, which rapidly helped bring to fruition, where both our relaxed their contributions and opened the groups shared a week of science, brainspace for everyone else. He has a memorstorming, careers, and (of course) skiing. able talk on the physics of skiing, which Often he would seemingly recruit talented covered more technical scope than I students who just happened to be awesome thought possible. skiers. Not that they were ever, however, quite up to the elegance and capability of Ulli on a ski slope, but they would further

Jeremy Baumberg



Ulli is a gifted collaborator, and able to bring together interdisciplinary teams from industry and academia to explore novel ideas. This is mainly because he evidently enjoyed these activities, especially since the science came with enthusiastic social interactions. I was one of the beneficiaries of this largesse, and learnt a huge amount of new physics and chemistry between Ulli's guidance and my ridiculous questions - this was a wonderful experience, and many new pieces of science emerged. More importantly, it forged many of our young researchers into voracious explorers across many institutions and companies around the world. The only thing that Ulli could not take was administration, particularly inane and unwanted papershuffling, and his policy of ignoring it sometimes led to bliss. Sometimes not. My main memory is someone who always had time for me, a rare and crucial spur to great science and creative life.

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his wish to escape into the landscape and

feel the rush of being alive. I remember

many conversations we had where Ulli was skiing backwards down the mountain

(naturally off-piste), and there were many

scrapes that he got me into, knowing just about how much I could take. That was also