Each class at Pacific University has someone the students consider their “go to guy”. For the class of ’95 that student was Brian Lee Hill. Always upbeat, always smiling, Brian took on his leadership role in the class without reservation and served on many class and College committees.

Brian was passionate about Optometry and loved his time at Pacific. He was a strong unifier and organizer who often brought his entire class together for studying or social events. He was a loyal and unconditional friend to classmates, faculty and staff.

Brian graduated with honors from Selah High School and received three scholarships to Yakima Community College. He continued his education at Central Washington University focusing on Pre-optometry and biology. He started at Pacific University in 1991.
Brian took this same enthusiasm to his other loves, the outdoors and the environment. He spent many summers working for the Forest Service. Upon coming to Pacific he joined the Forest Grove Forestry Department. In the fall of 1993, he died tragically in a vehicular accident while on fire patrol outside of Gales Creek. He was 26 years old and beginning his third year of Optometry school. At his memorial, regional firefighters and law enforcement officers joined in a procession to campus to honor Brian.

Brian received his Doctor of Optometry posthumously in 1995. Through the generous support of Monty and Lilas Hill the student lounge in Jefferson Hall is named in honor of their son Brian Lee Hill, OD.

The family, parents Monty and Lilas Hill and sister Tina Hill, and friends of Brian have established the Brian Lee Hill, OD, '95 Memorial Fund to be awarded to a fourth year College of Optometry student as he/she transitions from student to practitioner.

On the second Friday in September, members of the third year class will vote for the classmate they believe best embodies Brian's qualities. That person should be an inspiration to all and brings the class together through friendship and leadership. The winner of the Third Year Class vote will be the recipient of the Brian Lee Hill, OD, '95 Memorial Award and the
award will be presented at the fourth year awards and graduation banquet. The Dean’s office will manage the selection process and make the formal announcement at the banquet.

The recipient must be in good academic standing and be deemed, by the Dean, to be an appropriate recipient. Should that person be deemed inappropriate, the Dean shall have full authority to identify an alternate recipient from the previous top nominees in the class. The recipient will be notified the last week of April during their fourth year, prior to the graduation banquet.

The Dean will request a short paper from the award winner describing his/her life, including hobbies, interests and goals. This information will be used for the award announcement at the banquet and shared with the donor family.

Monty, Lilas, Tina and Brian Hill