



Justin T Hall, 50, of Los Alamos, New Mexico, died Saturday, December 27, 2025. He was born at St. Vincent's Hospital in Billings, Montana, on June 21, 1975, to Dewey Steven Hall and Sandra Lea Cotton.

Justin was a gifted scientist, educator, and researcher with a lifelong interest in the natural world. As a child, his fascination with dinosaurs was evident early on, even leading him to point out inaccuracies in television programs and museum exhibits while still in elementary school.

Justin was also a gifted athlete and musician. Throughout his middle school and high school years, he competed in swimming with selective club teams. At Stephen F. Austin High School, he swam on the school team and ran cross country. In both sports, he achieved numerous personal bests and record-setting performances across meets and events. A talented singer with a vocal range from bass III to tenor, Justin participated in choir and led his high school choir to multiple competition victories through his leadership and exceptional sight-reading ability.

He earned undergraduate degrees in geology and anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin, a master's degree in geology from Washington University in St. Louis, and a master's degree in anatomy from Stony Brook University. Justin was a PhD candidate at the University of Southern California and was widely regarded as a rising scholar in paleontology. His doctoral work was tragically interrupted by a house fire that caused serious injuries and altered the course of his life.

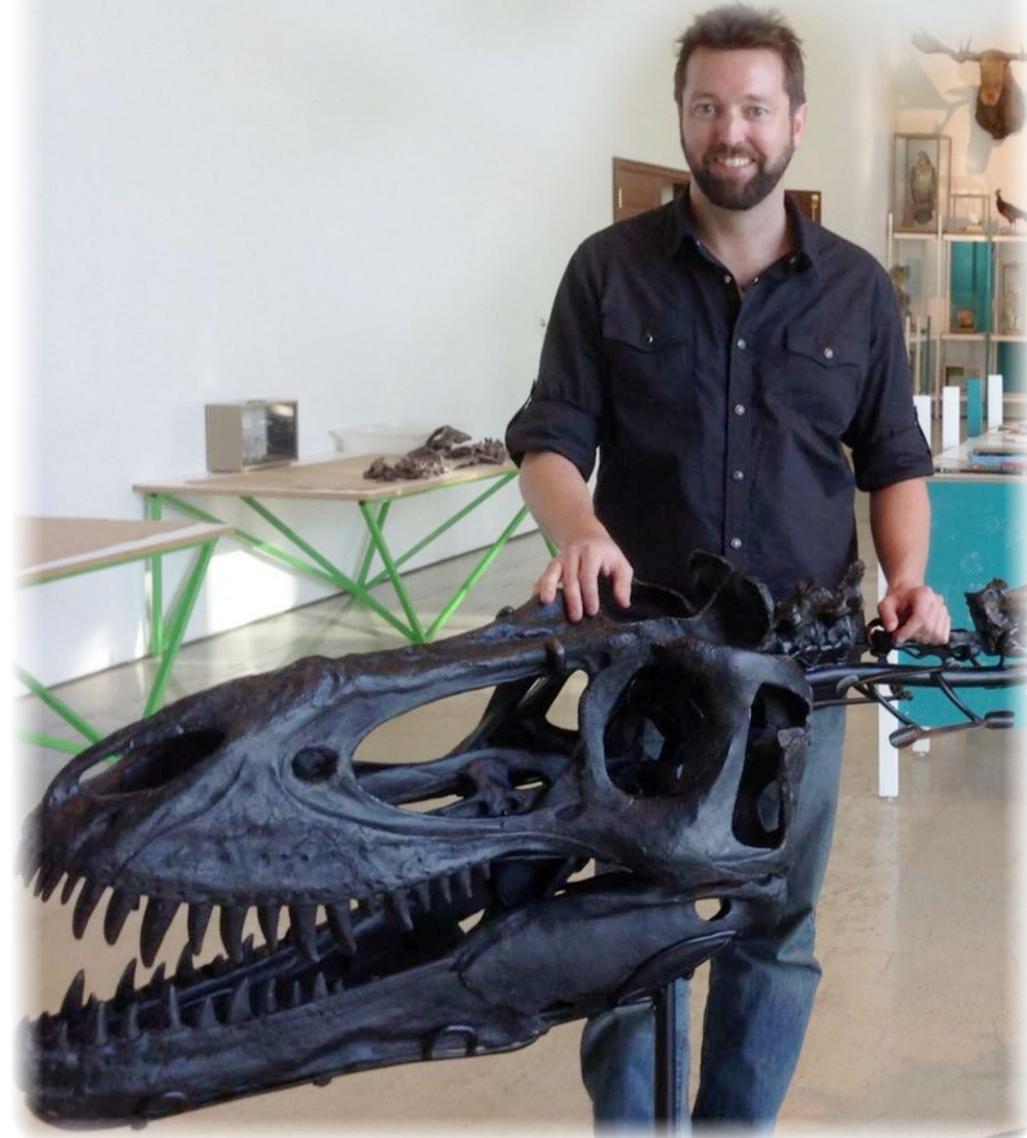
Justin was an avid college football fan and a devoted supporter of the Texas Longhorns. While studying at the University of Texas at Austin, he became a proud member of the Delta Upsilon fraternity, where he formed lifelong friendships.

Justin devoted his professional life to teaching and discovery. He taught geology at Washington University in St. Louis and later taught anatomy to medical and dental students at Stony Brook University and the University of Southern California. He received numerous teaching awards for his ability to engage and inspire students. His field research in paleontology led to the identification of the site of one of the largest sauropods discovered on the North American continent. He and his colleagues also developed a groundbreaking theory on Microraptor and the role of feathers in flight, contributing to important advances in the understanding of early avian evolution. His work was featured in national media outlets, including National Geographic. Justin shared his passion for science with the public through the design of museum displays, including work with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, creating interactive dinosaur exhibits to make science accessible and engaging for all ages.

Justin is survived by his mother, Sandra L. Cotton of Phoenix, Arizona; sister, Felicia E. Hall of Phoenix, Arizona; niece, Cassidy A. Cotton of Phoenix, Arizona; nephew, Lincoln T. Trembath of Phoenix, Arizona; and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father, Dewey S. Hall, and his grandparents.

Celebrating The Life Of Justin Hall

June 21, 1975 - December 27, 2025



Celebrating The Life Of Justin T Hall

CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Saturday, January 31, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.
Champion Kane Funeral Home

OFFICIATING

John Cotton

PIANIST

Betsy Edwards

ORDER OF SERVICE

- "Hallelujah" – performed by Cassidy Cotton
- Invocation – Tim Cotton
- "No More Tears in Heaven" – performed by Dan Burgess
- Speaker – Ben Cotton
- "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" – performed by Dan Burgess
- Eulogy – Felicia Hall
- Memorial Video
- Media Interview with Justin
- Sharing of Memories – All
- "Far Side of Jordan" – performed by Dan Burgess
- Benediction – Scott Cotton
- "Eyes of Texas" – recorded by The Texas Longhorn Band

A Reception will immediately follow the service in the
Champion Kane Reception Hall.

Inurnment will be in the Columbarium
section of the Sheridan Municipal Cemetery.

I give you this one thought to keep -
I am with you still - I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sunlight on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush of
quiet birds in circled flight.
I am the soft stars that shine at night.
Do not think of me as gone -
I am with you still - in each new dawn.

Native American Prayer



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