

(Dedicated to Ms. Wood)

## Family

“I’m leaving.”

As you say this you hold my hand,  
tears rolling down your face.  
Our clasped hands;  
the only thing keeping me from drowning.

*I have to stay strong.*  
I tell myself.  
*Not here*  
*don’t break here,*  
*or else you’ll never stop.*

Before I even finish my thought  
tears trail down my face,  
to be swept aside by your gentle touch.

“I’ll keep in contact.  
I promise.”  
All I can do is nod my head.  
“I didn’t want to leave till after  
your graduation.”

My gut lurches  
as the rollercoaster for emotions  
starts forward.

*I can’t lose you*  
*I can’t!*

Already,  
losing three people  
closest to me.

I can’t lose you.  
I started with you,  
you were the first  
to see my potential.

I can’t!  
I just—  
can’t.

Can’t lose you.  
Losing a motivator  
advisor



friend.

I'm losing family.  
Not blood related,  
yet family.

No matter how far apart,  
our bond  
will not break.  
We will never  
lose sight of each other.

Our lives  
although separate,  
will be intertwined always!

