

## **In Memory of My Quantum Physics Mentor**

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I really didn't know Lo Yam Kuen until I entered UC Berkeley as a Junior Chemical Engineering student. My perception of him as another introverted classmate remained before our encounter in Berkeley.

I was struggling with Quantum Mechanics (a typical curriculum for sophomore Chemical Engineering Majors), evidenced with the postponement of the course to my junior year. I was delighted, in one morning during the fall season of 1976 that I ran into Yam Kuen, who majored in Physics, in the Physics building where I attended the Quantum Mechanics class three times a week reluctantly. Very little pleasantries were exchanged between us before Yam Kuen spearheaded in explaining the theories to me with passion. He was so patient with my ignorance on the subject and a follow-up session was actually initiated by him, a defining moment for his future professorship.

I was never bright enough to fully comprehend the profound nature of Quantum Physics and the equations describing the motion of electrons or other subatomic particles, but Yam Kuen never lost his enthusiasm on mentoring my Physics. It became clear later that I wasn't going to be as dedicated as Yam Kuen as a scientist, or willing to sacrifice my social life to academia like Yam Kuen during his college career.

Loss of Yam Kuen had tremendously saddened me. I lost a friend and a mentor whom I tried to emulate, but the greatest loss is unquestionably in the science and academic world where truly intelligent and dedicated scientists are so precious in this era!