

Newsletter

Special Issue, January 5, 2011



海外华人交通协会
Chinese Overseas
Transportation

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沉痛悼念赵放教授

In Memory of Professor Fang Zhao

... with love from all who have worked with,
cared about, and are thankful to you. You will
forever be missed!

— COTA BOARD



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*Set aside grief and sadness and feel thankful that
we were given the chance to have known Fang Zhao,
because she is –*

*A woman of beauty and wisdom,
A mother of love and kindness,
A mentor of care and passion,
A leader of vision and strength,
A friend of character, trust and sharing,
A professional of ethics and integrity, and
A professor of devotion and great
accomplishments!*

-- Ping Yi

Dear COTA Members and Friends,

Fang is a very rigorous professor with a high professional standard. She has been very successful in her career, serving as the president of NACOTA from 2004 to 2006, the interim chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering department at Florida International University, and the deputy director of the Lehman Center for Transportation Research until she passed away. Fang set a great example for us Chinese transportation professionals to learn from. We are so proud of having her as our previous leader and a wonderful mentor. Her leaving is a big loss to COTA. Her name and contribution to COTA will never leave our minds.

To celebrate Professor Fang Zhao's life, COTA Board of Directors has decided to host a series of events highlighted with the following actions:

- (1) Host a memorial session at the 14th Annual COTA/WCTA Technical Symposium on Jan. 23 (Sunday) in Washington DC. Her colleagues, students, and friends will be invited to introduce her research accomplishments.
- (2) COTA will pull a special funds to sponsor the two ongoing PhD students of Professor Zhao to come to Technical Symposium and the 90th TRB Annual Meeting.
- (3) A COTA newsletter special issue dedicated to the memorial of Professor Fang Zhao will be published before the TRB meeting. COTA will also initiate a call for donation to help set up a Fang Zhao Endowment for Student Fellowship.

You are greatly welcome to get involved in all the activities. If you have other suggestions, please let us know.

Best Regards,

**Yinhai Wang, PhD, President of
Chinese Overseas Transportation Association (COTA)**

Fang Zhao Endowment for Women's Leadership in Engineering

Please join us in a fundraising effort in memory of Dr. Fang Zhao. An endowment fund for "Women's Leadership in Engineering" has been established in her memory. To contribute to this fund, please refer to the details below.

Pay to: FIU Foundation

Memo: Fang Zhao Endowment for Women Leadership in Engineering

Mail to:

Lilia Silverio-Minaya

Dean's Office, College of Engineering and Computing

Florida International University

10555 West Flagler Street, Suite 2471

Miami, FL 33174

305.348.6878

lsilveri@fiu.edu

OR MAIL TO:

Xiaogang Zeng (Fang Zhao's family)

7385 SW 123rd Street

Miami, FL 33156

Wire Instructions:

Bank: Wachovia Bank

ABA #: 031-201-467

Account #: 2-1000-1696-6874 (DEPOSITORY
ACCOUNT)

Account Name: Florida International University
Foundation, Inc.

Please put "Fang Zhao" in the memo or notes section.



Celebration of Fang Zhao's Life

Seeing the lights of Miami disappear into the night sky as the plane climbed to high altitudes on December 4, 2010, I wish what had happened in the last two days was simply a bad dream. Bad dreams can always be forgotten in the light of a new day, but I knew it was real as uncontrollable tears gushing down my face.

I flew to Miami two days ago to visit Fang, who was fighting an aggressive lung cancer in Miami's Baptist Hospital. After several months of persistent coughing and under her husband Xiao Gang's urge, Fang finally visited a doctor and was diagnosed with Stage-IV lung cancer on August 13, 2010. Even though I was devastated by the news, I had hoped she would fight the disease in defiance of all her doctors' expectations and contain the cancer cell growth with new treatment. Somewhere I read that cancer research has made the biggest stride in the past decade, making the survival rate much higher than what it was in the last century.

No one was prepared to see this cancer spread so fast. Within a three and a half month time period, the cancer cells had devoured her entire left lung, despite the chemo and other treatments. When the radiologist revealed this fact in the hospital on Friday morning, 12/03/2010, I felt my body could no longer hold my sinking heart. Only two weeks ago, in response to my deeply concerned email to her, Fang wrote back ensuring me that she was fine and asking me not to worry too much about her. It would be her last email to me. Her condition deteriorated rapidly in the few days after the email. She did not even have the opportunity to start a new clinical trial, which offered encouraging results to lung cancer patients with ALK gene mutation for which Fang was tested positive.

Fang and I first met about 16 years ago at a conference in Pittsburg, PA. Like most people, I was initially impressed by her beauty that she never fully realized. Fang is attractively tall at 1.76M (a she considered embarrassing in her youth as she later shared with me). Her beauty was complemented by both intelligence and elegance. We did not immediately become good friends, even though each of us made unique first impressions. A friendship developed gradually in the decade that followed, accelerating as she became the first female president of North American Chinese Overseas Transportation Association (currently COTA). During these years, we met and enjoined each other's company at TRB annual meetings in Washington D.C., various NACOTA conferences, and trips to different locales in China. We often shared hotel rooms in D.C., which gave us the opportunity to learn more about each other. As we talked about thoughts and ideas, families and past life experiences, we discovered how much we had in common. Our views on work, life, and the secular world are similar. After high school, we both spent three years in countryside for "re-education" before going to college in 1978 and both of our fathers were victims of the political witch-hunt movements in China during the past dark years.

All of Fang's acquaintances would agree that she is an honest, diligent, devoted professional possessing the highest level of integrity, which is hard to find. She took every task, big or small, seriously and always made her best efforts to complete these tasks, regardless of their significance in her personal advancements. In addition to performing research projects, she spent enormous amount of time preparing classes and did exceptional work. I was amazed by her methodical way of putting graduate GIS courses together. She was highly regarded by her professional peers and deeply appreciated by her students, evidenced by the flood of get-well cards she received, despite confiding the diagnosis only to a few close friends. Her high quality performance in the last two years as the Acting Department Chair led to the request for her to assume a higher administrative position in the college next year. She was also ranked high in a short list of candidates for a Directorship at a highly respected transportation research center in another English speaking country. She was at the peak of her professional life, by all measures, before August 13, 2010.

Although we were linked together professionally, I got to know Zhao Fang mostly outside of her work life. She was the youngest of five siblings and had a happy family of her own (husband and two children) in Miami, Florida. She is the kindest person I have ever met, never speaking ill about others. Fang had a big heart towards the less fortunate. While most of us would be impatient to the persistent phone calls asking for donations, I was not surprised to learn that Fang always spent



time responding to these calls and asking her husband to send checks to these organizations. She surprised the porters carrying huge loads of daily supplies climbing the rugged and steep steps in Huangshan by giving them cash and volunteered to tip the people who dragged the recreational boats along the Yangtze River Tour in 100 Yuan donations. This humbled the rest of us sitting on the same boat since we, in response to her suggestion, only put forward 5s or 10s. Fang's philanthropic contributions were part of her being, even though she lived frugally. She wore the same dress year after year at TRB's annual meetings and at our NACOTA summer conferences. Her natural beauty never needed fancy clothes or additions.

Fang loved nature and all lives fostered by nature. After hearing so much about the Florida Everglades from her, my husband and I took a trip to visit their home in Miami last year. We had such a great time touring the Everglades, complete with an adventurous canoe outing, an educational boat ride to see American crocodiles and mangrove, and a visit to a resting forest for thousands of different species of birds. Because of her, we learned a lot about the animals and plants that habituate the vast wetland that she loved dearly. Sometimes, her love for nature or animal lives puzzled people. She cultivated all sorts of native Floridian wildflowers and plants, which were like weeds to my eyes, in their yards. Few residents in her affluent neighborhood were less than pleased. She passionately won arguments with local people who came asking for the termination of these weed-like plants. Last year on a trip organized by the NACOTA conference, and hosted by the university in Harbin, passengers on our tour bus waited while she and her daughter, Leah, released small animals they had purchased back to the wild forest. I loudly protested and firmly demanded the evacuation of her two loving, mouse-like creatures, whose waste made an intolerable smell, on our train ride back to Beijing. Now, these memories make me laugh and cry at the same time, because they are so typical of my friend, Fang Zhao.

In addition to her love of nature, Fang also loved music, art, and mostly books—good classical books. Early in their children's lives, she and Xian Gang made a conscious decision for a TV-free household so that their children would spend time on constructive things, like music and books. Fang read more classical and contemporary books, mostly in English and a few in Chinese, than probably any of us who majored in science and engineering. Due to that, she wrote eloquently in English—an ability many of us struggle with constantly as non-native English speakers. I always admired her clear, concise, and very logical writing on even the most complicated issues. In our NACOTA circle of friends, Fang was the best technical writer. Due to her unawareness of pop culture, she inadvertently came off as arrogant when her brother-in-law took her to dine with his friend 周迅, a popular celebrity in China. Afterwards, she asked me who the woman was and why it was a big deal to meet her.

While Fang and I enjoyed common views on many important things in life, we also differed in some personal traits. One of the things I admired the most was her unpretentious personality. Some people talk big about themselves, and you hear their boasting, even in short conversations, about material possessions, professional achievements, outstanding status in society, association with well-known figures, degrees from top universities, etc. Fang was exactly the opposite end. You have to know her well to discover all her shining accomplishments and impressive network of friends and peers, which would make anyone envious.

Fang is a much stronger and calmer person than I am. The last three and a half months have been a persistent nightmare to me, and to her family (both immediate and extended). When she realized the end might be near, she tried very hard in her weakened physical state to make sure her yet-to-graduate student would be taken care of and other professors would finish her research reports. She was also deeply concerned about the impact on her children and her mother, discussing with Xiao Gang how to minimize such impacts. When it was time for me to leave the hospital on 12/04/2010, she managed to open her big, bright eyes and whisper to me **"I am ok."** When I turned back to hug her one more time, telling her, "I will be back to see you again," she shook her head as hard as she could since she knew the end was close and she was bravely ready. Four days after my visit, Fang passed away peacefully in the hospital surrounded by her beloved family and sister from Beijing. Fang's sudden passing leaves huge voids in her friends' hearts, many of them were not even aware of her ailment. Just as she never fully accepted her own beauty, Fang will never realize how many hearts will be broken by the tragic news.

Fang lived a great life, a fulfilled life, a life she had no regrets, and a life worth celebrating. In a small part, I am so proud and honored to have shared in such a beautiful life and friendship.

Xiaoduan Sun

Fang Zhao



At 5:10 pm today, our civil and environmental engineering family, the college, and FIU lost a precious member – Professor Fang Zhao, Interim Chair of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Deputy Director of the Lehman Center for Transportation Research. She fought a deadly form of lung cancer for the last three months. She never lost hope, nor did she ever lose her love for her work. It was only last week that she tried so hard to whisper in the ears of a colleague who was paying her a visit at the hospital, whatever she could to help him with finishing one of their research reports. That is the Fang Zhao that we all remember.

The light of life left her eyes today, but her lively eyes and her memory will never leave our minds. She devoted her entire academic career to FIU, and it is now up to us to keep her memory alive. The college will raise funds to establish Fang Zhao Endowment for Women in Engineering Leadership to celebrate her life and to cherish her accomplishments. The endowment will help fund scholarships, lectures, and professorship in her honor.

A graduate of the Beijing Institute of Civil Engineering and Architecture in China, she moved to the US in the mid-80' s and received her master and doctorate degrees in civil engineering from Carnegie Mellon University in 1987 and 1991, respectively. She joined FIU in 1992, and ever since devoted her time and energy to the advancement of her department in various capacities. She specialized in computer applications to civil engineering problems, particularly transportation problems. Her

research covered geographic information system (GIS), engineering databases, visualization techniques, transportation planning, transit planning and operations, new transit technologies, artificial neural networks, knowledge-based expert systems, optimization techniques, data analysis, and system modeling. She was a nationally recognized expert on GIS-T, especially on temporal GIS applications in transportation. For the last three years she led the department so ably as the interim chair, not only maintaining its operations, but also significantly enhancing its enrollment, degrees awarded, and research funding, as well as obtaining ABET accreditation of its two programs-civil, and environmental.

Fang is survived by her husband – a former affiliate of the Lehman Center, a daughter and a son. Her son is majoring in computer science in our college.

The department and the college will hold a special event for the celebration of her life. More information will follow as soon as we can arrange for an appropriate time with the family and friends.

Amir Mirmiran

*Dean of the College of Engineering and Computing
Florida International University*

In Memory of Fang Zhao

- Lei Yu

I had never imaged that I would lose a close friend at such a young age, the age when she is still deadly needed by her family, her friends, and her profession. The period between the time when I heard of her illness and the time when she abruptly left us was so short that I could not really adjust my personal feeling to accept what has happened. When I finally realized that my friend, Dr. Fang Zhao, would never come back again and we would never have another opportunity to talk face to face at TRB, the deep sadness suddenly occupied my entire mind. I could not use a word to express my true feeling, a feeling about the brutal reality that we lost our Fang Zhao permanently, and a feeling that the life is indeed short for a great person! While I tried hard to control myself in order to find right words to memorize Fang, I naturally clicked the website that was dedicated for Fang by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department of Florida International University. At the moment of reading those messages on the website, I felt that my sadness was accompanied by a huge pride. I am so proud of having had such an exceptional friend who had been loved by so many, who had influenced so many, and who had lighted herself till the last second of her life. I am truly proud of Fang!

I first met Fang in 2001 during the TRB meeting. She was

introduced to me by another friend. At that particular time of the history, our most common topic, which I believe was the case for many of early Chinese transportation professionals in North America, was about how to make contributions to the transportation development in China. In the following two years after we first met, I was serving as the 4th President of NACOTA and was heavily involved in various initiatives and events. Fang selflessly helped NACOTA as well as my own term at times of both excitement and challenges. We worked together, jointly with other NACOTA colleagues, to plan and implement a number of meaningful activities and events. She succeeded my presidency in January 2004 as the 5th and the first female President of NACOTA. In her two years' term, Fang continued the momentum and mission of NACOTA and organized many successful events. Fang was a person who talked less and did more. She would never hesitate to lend her hands to anybody whenever and wherever she was needed. She was honest, reliable, and trustful. In my experience, Fang had never had real arguments with anyone. She always expressed herself softly with low and peaceful voice, but at the same time she was brave and determined with a character of insisting on principles. Undoubtedly, she treated all people around her nicely and friendly.

We are all sad to have lost one of our best friends, one of the most dedicated professionals in the field of



transportation planning, and one of early pioneers to promote and develop NACOTA. Fang's life is short, but her contributions are so great! At this time of memorizing Fang, we all should inherit her spirit and carry on her unfinished tasks!

Tribute to Fang Zhao

I was among the very few who knew that Fang was diagnosed the aggressive lung cancer early in the fall of 2010. At the time, while I did not want to believe this reality, I had always kept a hope that Fang can fight through this with her signature optimistic. Very sadly, all my hopes to even a slightly optimistic outcome from her illness came to an end on December 7, 2010 when I heard the news of her passed away. It was certainly one of the darkest days in my life.

I first met Fang 12 years ago when I was attending an ASCE conference in Miami. One of her students and my BJUT alumina introduced her to me. I was immediately impressed by her polite and kindness when she greeted me and went further voluntarily gave me an introduction of her school transportation research projects. I was aware that she was among the early very few who was taking a university faculty job from Chinese transportation graduates in US. We gradually became known each other well when she was elected to the first female president of NACOTA (currently COTA). She asked me to be on her advisory panel and emailed or called me quite frequently, especially during the time approaching to TRB annual meeting. I got used to her soft and consultative tone of voices when she wanted to discuss NACOTA matters with me. She was so dedicated to any assigned NACOTA tasks, big or small, like collecting dinner fees and counting heads for activities. She was also the first NACOTA president to formally establish a professional relationship between NACOTA and World Bank transportation staff in East Asia and China office from which I became a sort of point contact person due to my local presence and long time interact with the Bank transport network. She did many invaluable things for NACOTA with very low key that many people did not even notice them.

What is it that we remember when we think of Fang? I think everyone who knows her well would agree with me on this. It was her honesty, devotion, diligent with great integrity. She was the kind of person that would make



everyone comfortable when she was in a group conversation or simply a one-on-one dialog. That is what I truly miss about Fang. Indeed, she always wanted to make people happy.

Fang's death is sudden. She was too young but as it slowly occurred to me I have realized that she indeed lived her life wonderfully. Fang was well-loved and she had done so many things quietly on earth and I'm sure she'll do much more in heaven.

I will forever be grateful to have known Fang. I will forever be grateful that Fang devoted her professional talent and efforts to transportation in her beloved countries – US and China. I will forever be grateful that she was once there taking the NACOTA leadership role and treated it with high integrity. All the memories I have shared with her will forever be cherished and remembered.

Fang will forever live in my heart... In our hearts.

- Jason Wang

Jan. 5, 2011

亲爱的放，

怎么也不愿相信你和我们已经不在同一个世界上了。一切都来得那么突然、那么无奈。想来我们的最后一次见面还是在2009年哈尔滨的NACOTA年会上，算起来已经有一年半了但仿佛又仍旧是在昨天。自从得知你谢世西归，你的容颜笑貌时刻伴随着我们。你英年早逝，走得那么匆忙，留给我们的是无限的伤感，无尽的哀思，和无法挽回的遗憾！这痛彻心扉的遗憾更来自于没有机会送你最后一程。放，请原谅！

时间过得好快，我们认识也已经很久了。在我们心中你是一位慈爱的母亲，孝顺的女儿，尽责的师长，知心的朋友。你踏踏实实，尽心尽力地过着每一天；你认认真真，兢兢业业地履行着上苍赋予你的责任与使命。你的性格是那样的淡定，你好像从来不会发脾气，从来不会抱怨，从来不会责怪他人。你总是安安静静但却竭尽全力地做着你需要做的事情。与你接触最多的时候是在你被选举为NACOTA会长以后，那时我还在NACOTA帮忙管理会计及银行的事务。在与你配合工作的那段日子里，我更进一步了解到你是一位多么认真、敬业、热情、有个人魅力以及富有领导力的女性。与你配合工作非常之有效率也非常之愉快！更记得有一年的TRB，你，小端我们三人住在一起，我们有机会谈了很多，你言语间流露出来的对你的一双儿女的爱，对你的学生的期望，对你的工作的一片热忱，和你对人生的淡定让我印象非常深刻。你让我感受到的是一个真真实实，充满责任感，从容地生活，并让生命的每一天都有所作为的一位平凡但又如此伟大的女性。

放，小端与我分享了你在这个世界上发给她的最后一封邮件。我很感谢小端，因为那封邮件让我又一次感受到你的伟大和你的与众不同。我想在这个世界上你应该有太多的不舍 - 你那双值得你骄傲的儿女，你那爱你和你爱的年迈的母亲，你最亲密的丈夫，你的家人，你的学生，你的朋友……。可是在你生命的最后一刻，你是那样勇敢地面对现实，那样从容平静地安排你走后的一切，同时又是那样忍受极大痛苦配合治疗，以求为了你爱的人而挽回宝贵的生命。你对生命的热爱，对残酷现实的勇敢面对将是你留给所有知你爱你的人的宝贵财富。

放，纵然有万般不舍，还是得对你说一句，你放心地走吧！我们懂得你最放心不下的是你的一双儿女。但你应该知道在你这样一位伟大母亲的教育下，你的儿女一定是坚强，执着，并且非常独立的人。他们一定不会被击垮，一



定会和你一样勇敢从容地面对他们未来的人生路。你一定要相信他们将会有一个完美与充实的人生的。

放，我们想念你！你虽然离开了我们，但你永远活在我们心中！

放，愿你一路走好！愿你安息！

Love, 你的好友 李晶 (Connie) & 冉斌

二零一零年十二月 痛挽



惊悉赵放教授因患肺癌与世长辞！噩耗传来，母校师生深感悲痛！

赵放教授是北京建筑工程学院杰出校友，她以优异的成绩获得卡内基-梅隆大学博士，并成为最早在美国大学担任教授的中国学者之一，为中国学生争得了荣誉。

赵放教授一生治学严谨、勤奋执着，在学术上始终保持着创新与顽强的拼搏精神。她曾两度担任北美华人交通学会理事及会长，在中美交通学术交流发挥了重要作用。

赵放教授始终不忘母校培养，努力推进贵校和北京建筑工程学院的学术交流与合作。在她担任系主任的繁重工作的情况下，三次回母校指导科研教学工作，并与本校教师一起申报国家科研课题，指导和帮助修订交通工程专业教学大纲。

赵放教授的逝世不仅是Florida Intrnational Univrsity 的一大损失，也是我校的损失。值此之际，我们谨向贵校以及赵放教授的家属表示沉重的悼念和诚挚的慰问。

錢軍

北京建筑工程学院校务委员会主任

郑文堂

北京建筑工程学院院长

勤劳的智慧、美丽的生命：缅怀恩师Dr. Zhao

赵明 (GIS Manager at Otay Water District, California)

当我收到Dr. Zhao去世的噩耗时，我正在一个聚会中，这突如其来的坏消息让我惊呆了，我惊愕的表情瞬间引起了所有在场人的注意。我简直无法将这一残酷的现实与Dr. Zhao这样充满活力和热情的生命相联系，短短的几天时间里，以前的老同学、老校友和师兄弟们之间的联系骤然多起来，为了一个我不能接受的理由：悼念尊敬的Dr. Zhao。在我的师兄、辛辛那提大学魏)教授(Dr. Heng Wei)的建议下，我写了这篇悼念文章，将我的思绪带回到遥远的1995年冬.....

那一年，当我从寒冷的北京来到阳光明媚的Miami，我的指导教授沈龙利教授 (Dr. David Shen)告诉我有一位北京来的Dr. Zhao 主授“Artificial Intelligent”，她将协助辅导我的研究课题。当我第一次见到Dr. Zhao时，我由不得感到惊讶，在异国他乡的高等学府里，竟有这样一位年轻而美丽的教授，她身材高挑，有一双明亮清澈的大眼睛，梳着一条独特的长至腰间的大辫子使她看起来特别儒雅和智慧。我暗暗庆幸自己的研究生生涯中遇到这样辅导教授，从此我在课堂上、实验室和日常生活里经常看到她的身影。

Dr. Zhao是一位致学严谨而孜孜不倦的学者，她将高端科技带到传统的土木和交通工程专业领域，这一努力使我们的理论研究上升到领先的地位。在佛罗里达国际大学(FIU)，她是GIS (地理信息系统)在土木工程中应用的主要倡导者和实践者。现在，我作为一名GIS领域的管理人员，她当年对我的影响和教导是不言而喻的。在这个过程中，她付出了超乎常人的努力，尽管当时她的两个孩子还非常小，但每天她都工作到午夜，即使到了周末她也会去办公室。她让我领会到一个真正的科研天地，她帮我们这些年轻的心插上理想的翅膀，使我们在不同的领域中飞翔.....我非



常想念她，想念她为我们营造的科研氛围……

Dr. Zhao是认真严谨的导师，同时又是她的学生们可亲可敬的朋友。记得有一篇文章要截稿，我凭借自己之前的研究生学习和海外大公司工作经历，自以为可以轻松过关，就没有花太多的时间认真检查就将论文交给她。很快，她就把我叫到她的办公室，让我回去看她的修改。



我打开一看，一片红笔批注，几乎每一行甚至每个字，她都修改过。当时我感到非常窘，仔细静下心来读她的批注，我深深感到她的语言功底深厚和我的肤浅。她的严谨治学精神至今影响着我。我相信，这些年以来，她就这样为成百上千的学生批改过论文，积极地影响着他们的成长。她不但对学业要求严格，同时也很注重培养学生的组织能力和表达能力，每到课程结束，我们都有小组为单位的project presentation。场面非常正规，大家都要“dress up professionally and prepare your presentation documents”。一次，我代表我们小组做用GIS规划城市的交通的presentation，下课后，她走过来，诡秘悄悄的对我用中文说：“你还挺会侃的。”这对我是很大的鼓励。写到这，她那调皮的样子还浮现在我眼前，此时此刻我真的不能接受她这样亦师亦友的美丽生命就这么快地离去了…

每当想起Dr. Zhao，就不得不想起她的美丽。“美女”两字在当今的社会甚为滥用，然而在我的眼里，Dr. Zhao才是真正天生丽质。她从来没有刻意装饰自己，她散发出的高贵气质和美丽容颜，是那么自然和充满魅力。记得有一天，她忽然剪掉了标志性的长辫子，我曾对她表示遗憾，她说她告诉理发师要剪的发式就是要“minimum maintenance”。另一方面，她却把业余时间用来欣赏古典音乐和阅读大量书籍。在当今物欲横流的社会，象这样注重精神世界的人已不再是多数……她留给我们的是无限的遗憾和思念！

我总认为现在太忙，想着以后闲一点再和她多联系。但如今，昔人已逝，让我感慨万：珍惜生命，珍惜朋友，珍惜我们现在拥有的一切。Dr. Zhao不懈的努力是为了她的学生事业更加成功，生活重要幸福。我想我们应当更加关爱生活和事业，让Dr. Zhao放心。

Dr. Zhao安息吧!

忆赵放

2010年12月15日中午12:05，手机接到一个同事发来的这样一条短信：“沉痛哀悼赵放教授！赵放教授因患肺癌，医治无效，昨晚在美逝世。”

“赵放？哪个赵放？”

看着短信，心中疑惑着，完全没有把短信中的赵放教授和佛罗里达国际大学(Florida International University)的赵放联系在一起。（后来才想到自己没有在意这条短信的另外一个原因，是转发短信的同事，和赵放不是相同研究领域的教授。）

当天下午，打开信箱后，发现了一封来自小端的邮件，在邮件里，小端告诉了我赵放逝世的消息。至此我这才恍然大悟，把短信里的那个赵放，和我熟悉的、和蔼可亲的赵放联系到了一起。

赵放走了。

一个无法相信的事实，一个难以接受的事实。

震惊，悲痛。一股巨大的悲哀，随即袭来。

迅速打开小端邮件中提供的网址，<http://www.cec.fiu.edu/2010/12/fang-zhao/>

查看相关信息，了解相关的悼念活动。已经有很多人在那个网上留下自己的悼词了。我也在上面写下了自己的留言：

“惊悉赵放教授不幸去世，深表哀痛。赵放，安息吧！”然后默默署上自己的名字。

很早就听说过赵放其名，但真正认识赵放，还是在我的学生要出国留学的时候。当时，为了学生我向小端求救，她则把学生介绍给了赵放。此后，在国内的一次学术会议上，我认识了赵放。那一天，我开车送她回位于木樨地附近的家，一路上，一起谈论着学生、谈论着会议。和蔼可亲，是和她初次相识给我留下的深刻印象。

就在我的学生求学过程中，赵放的严谨和认真给我留下了深刻的印象。记得当时收到过一封来自赵放的邮件，她对学生的成绩和评语之间的矛盾提出质疑，在她看来，如果是这样的成绩，怎么会有如此评价哪？说实在的，国内的教授在对学生的评价之事上，不仅没有如此严格的系统，更没有如此严格Check的习惯。赵放的如此精神，让我敬佩。

关于赵放教育学生的实情，还有一件让我记忆深刻的事情。我的一个学生到美国之后，在最初学术活动上做Presentation的时候，免不了有些结结巴巴，这时，他询问赵放：

“我可以用中文说吗？”

“No!”赵放斩钉截铁地回答道。

也正是由于赵放如此严谨认真的执教方式和精神，学生们才得以最快地突破了语言障碍，早日加入那里的学术队

伍。

2009年，这位学生回国休假，在我这里做了一场学术报告。我明显地感受到他的身上已经深深地打上了赵放学术精神的烙印。

和赵放的近距离接触，应该是2005年1月，我赴美参加TRB会议。很荣幸，我受到邀请在那次会议上做Presentation。这对我来说，是难得的机遇，也是一次巨大的挑战。因此，尽管为准备此次发言，我付出了很大的努力，依然心存不安。

演讲前夕，我在会场遇到了赵放。她主动询问起来我演讲的准备情况，并抽出时间，一边帮我修改每一张幻灯片，一边告诉我用英语如何讲。

感动！

正是在赵放的帮助下，我的演讲得以顺利进行。此次演讲，也成了一次终生难忘的记忆。

赵放走了。可是赵放那温雅的笑容，却永远留在我的记忆里。

愿你向着天堂的路一切安好，赵放。

关宏志, 北京工业大学

2011年1月11日星期二21时53分



Memories of Dr. Fang Zhao

It is with great sadness that we learn of another loss very close to many of us in the DOT family. On December 8, 2010 Dr. Fang Zhao lost her short, but very hard fought battle with cancer. Although Dr. Fang Zhao didn't work at DOT, she was no less like family to many of us in District Six.

Dr. Zhao was a long-time civil engineering professor at Florida International University and for the past 3 years served as the interim chair of the Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. She was a very dedicated professor, entirely devoted to FIU, her students, her research and the advancement of transportation through her leadership role at the Lehman Center for Transportation Research. Not only was she incredibly bright – a nationally recognized expert in temporal GIS applications in transportation – she was a beautiful and lovely person who treated others kindly and with respect. She touched the lives of her students, fellow faculty members and researchers, and she will no doubt be terribly missed.

FIU's College of Engineering and Computing has dedicated a page on their website to Dr. Zhao, and through this site will be providing information on contributing to the Fang Zhao Endowment for Women in Engineering Leadership and also on how you can participate in the celebration of her life. Feel free to visit <http://www.eng.fiu.edu/cee/DrFangZhao.htm>.

- Debora M. Rivera, P.E., Director of Transportation Operations, Florida Department of Transportation, District Six

I was shocked to hear the news of Fang's passing, and can't believe she is gone. What a loss for all her family, her colleagues,



students and friends! In the short time that I knew Fang as a Board Member of NACOTA, she impressed me with her vision, integrity, honesty and dedication to people in the organization and the institution itself. She was fair, and led tough initiatives to make NACOTA stronger. I was in awe of her trustworthiness and commitment. Now, she is gone, and I will miss her immensely.

- Eva Lerner-Lam

I have known Dr. Zhao since 2007 and she has been a tower of strength and an inspiration to me and to the Civil Department. If there is any form of assistance you need she will be the first to either assist you or make contact for you to get assistance. As we as student all know, that some things never go as plan at FIU and in the department, but Dr. Zhao will always be there to make it happen. She is a people person. She is always smiling. I can never remember a moment when I don't see a smile on her face. Her presence will be greatly missed. Dr. Zhao you have made and left a mark in my life. One which I know I will be able to utilize to be successful in my profession. You have taught me what professionalism is about. You have taught me that life is more than just making money. You taught me that the true essence of life is to create an impact in the life of others. There were many plans we had for the upgrading of the Geotechnical Engineering aspect of the department but sadly we never get to finish them together. I know you have done your best in this life, and the reward will surely be bestowed upon your family. I am really at tears to know I won't see you again. Love and Peace forever. I know your soul will be resting in Peace.

- Clyde Grey

I have known Dr. Zhao on many levels: a faculty colleague in committees, as associate dean and, like her, a department chair. She had an easy-going style and always tried to find the way to compromise whenever difficulties arose. But you could always tell she had inner strength that would help her achieve her goals. I had hoped she would beat this and I was very saddened to hear of her untimely passing. May she rest in peace and may her memory be a source of strength to her family.

- Cesar Levy, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Computing

Over the last year and half I had gotten to know Dr. Zhao and what she stood for. She was full of ideas about how to help junior faculty, how to help students, how to improve their language and presentation skills. It is a colossal loss for our college. We will miss her and her voice of reason.

- Giri Narasimhan, Associate Dean of the College of Engineering and Computing

I am one of the many lucky people who had the fortune to become Fang's friend. The invisible value she has left us will continue to enrich our lives. We will forever cherish her gentle elegance, her warmth, her sharp intellect, her incredible strength, and her loving heart. Her spirit lives, ever so livelier and more vividly with us.

- Jennifer Fu, GIS LAB Director of Florida International University

Dr. Zhao was one of the nicest persons I ever met. Always helpful, always cheerful, always smiling. Even during the last

few months, she didn't let us realize how much she was suffering mentally and physically as she concealed all that pain behind her smile. We lost not only a great scholar and a great colleague but we also lost a great person.

- Arindam Gan Chowdhury, Assistant Professor, Department of CEE and IHRC

I love you Dr. Zhao and will never forget you. Three months ago when I told a student you were not in and was not going to be available for a while, his words to me were "OUR PROTECTOR IS NOT HERE, WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?"

You always saw the good in people and even when sick, always had the time to listen to them. You taught me so much. I pray God opens my mind and helps me understand why such a beautiful human being left us. (Maybe is because I'm selfish.)

I don't need an Angel on my Christmas tree; there is already one in Heaven looking down on me. In memory of my beloved friend Dr. Fang Zhao, you will be missed this Christmas as you have been every day of my life since the day you went to Heaven. I love you.

-Haydee Caneda, Secretary



I am very saddened to hear that Dr. Fang Zhao passed away. She was a heavy-hitter in the college. But more than that she was a great friend. We will remember her for her friendship, professionalism and devotion to work.

- Irtishad Ahmad, student

Dr. Zhao was a wonderful human being. She was a great boss, and on a personal level, a great friend. She always had a smile on her face and her eyes always shined. I love you Dr. Zhao and you will truly be missed. May you rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers are with her family.

- Laura Osorno, Secretary

Dr. Zhao was a great woman, full of great values. She always had something nice to say and a smile to give. She gave me advices about my professional career and also provided words of wisdom for my role as a parent and working mother. I am extremely sad about this loss. My thoughts and prayers are with her family. May her soul rest in peace.

- Lilia Silverio-Minaya, Secretary

Dr. Zhao was a great teacher as well as a mentor. I still remember the first time I met her back in 2001 in Shanghai, China when she visited my university and gave a speech regarding career as a researcher. I chose to come to America partially due to her influence. It is such a tremendous loss for us, for FIU and for her families. My charming professor, I

wish you rest in peace.

- Xuesong Zhu, student

Fang Zhao will be remembered for her many roles as an engineering educator, administrator and family member just to name a few. I am saddened that someone so vital and young has left us too soon. Among the many things I remember about her is her good humor at the CEE vs BME softball game. Also once we had a discussion about her lawn, which she said was supporting Florida natural flora to the consternation of her neighbors. She was a joy to work with, and although I do not know her as well as many, I too will miss her presence. My sincere condolences to her family and friends.

- Stephanie Strange, student

The Civil Engineering Student Protector – Dr. Fhang Zhao

I truly love you Dr. Zhao. You were such a nice person and always ready to help. Sorry, every time I came to see you, I was asking for your assistance. Now, I graduated, and I got a job. And I'm working hard for the betterment of my career and my family. But, I will never see you again in this world.

I definitely will contribute to the Fang Zhao Endowment for Women in Engineering Leadership. That's all I can do now. But, that still does not help. I just miss you so much!

- Yilei Shi



My deepest condolences to Dr. Zhao's family and friends. Her kind heart and graceful ways will be missed. She was a pillar of our community who endlessly helped us in time of need. I am eternally grateful for the impact she had on my life and I regret waiting until now to tell her. Dr. Zhao, thank you! May you rest in peace.

- Charlie Duverge

Dr. Zhao is my advisor in Florida International University. She was a very devoted professor I had ever seen. I chose her GIS class in the first semester I came here. At that time, she revised our reports word by word for each one of us (there are totally 30 students in her class). In the end, we all got almost totally different reports. I was ashamed because the raw report I hastily submitted should not deserve her work. In the fall semester of this year, regardless her bad situations, she still read through my dissertation and gave me a lot of useful suggestions. In the 9th of November 2010, less than one month before her passing, she still attended my dissertation defense. I am honored to have such great advisor in my life.



She was also very strict on research and had zero tolerance on error in research. She was so smart and so strict that her comments were our nightmare after we finished a report or paper. We had to totally rerun the models or read more literatures to answer her questions. She exemplified a responsible professional in our society.

She was generous to students. She never criticized us when we had slow progress in the research; instead, she enlightened and encouraged us to find new way to solve the problems. She was also a protector for students, she always was the first person to either assist students or make contact for students to get assistance. I remember that she paid the application fee for the students overseas in poor conditions. She also organized a lot of activities such as soccer or softball games to enhance the connections among students from different countries. I am in a great sorrow for losing such a great advisor. Sometimes, I have to comfort myself by imaging that maybe in the heaven God needs such an outstanding person to do some more important things. Dr. Zhao, thank you so much for everything you did for us, you will live in our heart forever.

- Hongbo Chi, Student

Like most of us, I was shocked when I heard the news that Dr. Zhao was no longer with us. I have been thinking a lot these days and still am not able to accept such a crucial truth. Ever since then, those vivid memories have been flowing in my mind.

The first time I met Dr. Zhao was a sunny afternoon, though I did not have the right mood to enjoy that day. Back then, I was switching majors and a lot of uncertainties were around me. I went to talk to Dr. Zhao was only because I heard other Chinese students saying she was such a nice person and always willing to help others. I hesitated a long time before I stepped into her office and with all the courage I started saying, "I am interested in joining your program...". After reviewing my qualifications, she looked at me with an elegant smile for a long time and finally said "I think we are able to provide you a position". She just lightened up my life.

Ever since then, I was introduced into a whole new area which fascinates me and becomes my career. It is well known that Dr. Zhao is a nice person but very strict in academics. Those difficult and extensive courses taught by her, such as GIS and travel demand analysis, turn out to be the only ones I am able to remember and apply proficiently. Looking at those text books and notes, it is just like yesterday when she stood in front of us, pointing to the slides, explaining the complicated issues in a simplified



about her students outside the classroom. For example, she suggested I submit an application for a scholarship she felt I had a great chance to win. After helping me thru the application process and going thru several interviews, I won the scholarship as faculty advisor for Chi Epsilon, she helped me in every way possible with my classes and my involvement in the engineering campus. I graduated in 2003 and she continued her support in my career for years. It's unfair to lose such a great engineer, but worst of all, to lose such a great person in every aspect!

language, smiling to us with her big and shining eyes, tears are just coming out of my eyes.

It is she who guided me through the process of doing research projects initially. The first project I joined was not quite in my area. She advised me in a systematic way and was always patient to me even though she was having pressure from the other side. Finally, under her advisory, we were able to finish that project with very encouraging results.

I graduated early this year and went to work in Virginia. I went to her office to say goodbye before I left Miami. We had a pretty pleasant talk. At that time, I was still working on a paper with her. Finally she said "Our door is always open and welcome back at any time. Do not ignore me when I send you emails about the paper", again with her big shining eyes and charming smile. I never expected that would be the last talk and the paper would never be finished.

This is the Dr. Zhao we all know. A brilliant person, who really helped us, impacted us and left lots of memories to us. Of course, she will be remembered by us, all of us, forever.

- Huijing Qiang, Student

In my 2 years in the FIU engineering campus, Dr. Zhao was the only professor who was involved and concerned

You will be missed Dr. Zhao! My deepest condolences to your family and friends!

- Roberto C. Gutierrez

The first time I met her was in Wang Fu Jing Street in Beijing for the graduate admission interview. She gave me a smile and treated me a cup of coffee. I was shocked by her elegant image. The second time I met her was in her home in Beijing to pick up my offer letter. She was cooking for her mother and treated me a bowl of soup; I was shocked by her kind-hearted. The N time I met her was in her office at FIU. She seriously criticized my carelessness and effortlessness on my assignment. I was shocked by her seriousness. The N+1 time I met her was back to her office with my redone assignment. She gave me a "naughty" laugh, and said "sorry about what I did just now. I did it on purpose. I know you could do great! See, I am right." I was "angry" by her archness. The second time to the last I saw her was in the hospital. She was weak and skinny. She gave me a deep kiss and said she would never give up. I was shocked by her spirit. The last time I saw her was still in the hospital. She was covered by a white bed sheet, from feet to head. I was shocked by this truth. Her loss is one which it will be difficult to overcome.

- Jinyan Lu

Dr. Zhao, may your soul rest in peace. I was extremely shocked when I heard that you were fighting against deadly lung cancer. I chose not to believe it at first when Hongbo told me that sad news. You were so healthy in the party you prepared for me at the end of June. On the 31st of July you were still reviewing our TRB paper. On the 19th of September we were still discussing ASCE paper. The last email I received from you was on the 21st of September, in which you sent me the EIC website address of celebrating my Daniel B. Fambro Student Paper Award. In the emails you never leaked out a word about your sickness. Even now, what I can read from the emails are still your calmness, strong heart and positive attitude. You are still alive in my mind and we will miss you forever, Dr. Zhao.

- Chenxi Lu

The statement below was circulated around a group of us who have depended on Fang Zhao's collaboration and support of research on human dimensions of disasters. I read the testimonials here realizing as I had not before that we are part of a huge community who depended on her research leadership, brilliant scholarship and technical skills, teaching, and true friendship.

"With Fang Zhao's passing we lose a dear friend and the colleague who most contributed to cross-disciplinary research at FIU. Since she came to FIU in the year of Hurricane Andrew she has understood and acted on the importance of linking social science and GIS with her engineering work in research on disasters and urban sustainability. She was a collaborator with Walt Peacock, Betty Morrow, and me on many projects since then, Co-PI on one of our NSF projects, and key research person on others (including one current). Through her abilities as a wonderful teacher and leading GIS expert at FIU, students who learned so much from her

classes were not just in engineering but across the university. We who worked with her will have to redouble our efforts to try to compensate as best we can for this enormous loss."

- Hugh Gladwin

惊悉Dr. Zhao 不幸去世，惊愕之余，深为失去这样一位尊敬的教授，一位在中美交通学术交流发挥重要作用的优秀学者而十分惋惜。

本人有幸在Dr. Zhao的实验室工作学习一年，Dr. Zhao渊博的知识、严谨的治学、执着的信念和拼搏精神给我很深的印象，每每与Dr. Zhao交流，总能获得很多好的思路 and 想法，获益匪浅。而今，我回国已五年了，虽然，平时少有了联系，但在我心中，对Dr. Zhao一直充满感谢和敬佩。Dr. Zhao 安息，愿Dr. Zhao的精神永存！

- Weng Jingnong





I knew Dr. Zhao's name much longer than I met her during TRB in Washington D. C., I am impressed by her determination for research excellence, her attractive personality, her attitude toward professional integrity from my conversations with her and from other mouths. Her elegant image in my fresh memory is the charming professor who stands in front of her students' posters explaining the big scope and the small details in the project. Wish her soul in peace and her family members strong to face future.

- Haizhong Wang

博士毕业，戴着学究眼睛，任何人都不会不认为我是知识分子，还是高级知识分子。

不是人贵在自知之名，窃以为从来不是知识分子，充其量是个识字多点，看书多点的人罢了。

从来没有对知识啦，研究啦有着执着的追求，就如当初我跟大连外国语学院的一位教授说的那样，英语嘛，就是一个工具，没有必要那么执着。我想自我内心已经认定了我不会成为知识分子，至多也就是把知识之类的当做工具而已。

就是这样一个我，却有着三个博士导师。第一位

是国内交通的奠基人之一，至今已有近八十岁高龄；第二位是台湾人，活跃于中美；第三位最年轻，就是Dr. Zhao，五十出头，爱新觉罗氏，如果幸运的话，也应该是一位格格。

Dr. Zhao在我的学业中对我指导最多，帮助最大。Dr. Zhao是一个非常非常严格的教授，严格的我非常不理解，估计对我也不算满意罢。在美国周边都是师弟师妹，还是北京的师弟师妹，都是熟人，几乎从来不讲英语，Dr. Zhao坚持让我们在她眼前讲英语，词不达意都无所谓。记得刚去美国，在 Green Library上GIS课，Dr. Zhao好意送我和33回工程学院，半路上Dr. Zhao左脚抽筋儿，我和33面面相觑，都不知道抽筋儿用英语怎么表达，最后逼得Dr. Zhao用汉语说了一句，我抽筋儿啦，我和33憋不住的笑。从心里是明白Dr. Zhao的苦心，但是我这个很懒，而且到美国也没打算留在美国，能不用英语就不用英语，并且在研究报告中，能走捷径就走捷径，搞得Dr. Zhao亦无可奈何。

只是在我临回国的前一天晚上，Dr. Zhao，33和我一起去看了电影，吃了顿意大利餐，终于可以全程说汉语了，心里大呼“爽”。从言谈中，听得出来Dr. Zhao非常的渴望回国，可惜旅美已经近30年，根已经在了美国，无法放弃，也许孩子都大学毕业了之后，会回国。

七八月份，师弟回国，在重庆与我见了一面，告诉我Dr. Zhao刚刚检查出肺癌，位置不好，不能手术，只能化疗。12月8日从大连回来，二叔告诉我Dr. Zhao passed away。

英年魂断美国，愿真有另外一个世界，在那个世界可以魂归故土！

- Jing Qi

昨日惊闻我在美念研究生时的老板Dr. Zhao在上周因肺癌去世了. 看着EMAIL, 我的眼泪止不住的流.....几年没有联系, 得到的却是这样的噩耗, 令人心碎.

Dr. Zhao是一位长的非常美丽高挑的北京女性. 气质高贵, 又有北京女性特有的大气和爽快. 我永远忘不了1996年的夏天, 收到她给我的全奖, 圆了我的美国梦. 我永远忘不了, 刚到美国时, 住在她的家里, 她家浓浓的书卷气, 和对我的照顾, 也忘不了, 每周在她的办公室MEET, 讨论课题的美好时光; 忘不了她穿着长长的裙子, 在教学楼里忙碌的身影, 还有她讲课时, 镜片后美丽大眼睛中闪着的光, 忘不了, 当我收到遥远的亚省给我的面试通知, 我不想去, 她说的: '你都申请了, 不去面试, 多不PROFESSIONAL啊', 就这一句话, 我去了, 而现在在这里已经住了十多年.

Dr. Zhao对我在美人生的决定, 起了关键的作用. 我因她而来, 又因她的一句话选择了现在居住的地方. 在我的印象中, 她是那么年青, 美丽, 有活力. 她总是笑容满面, 她总是和颜悦色. 因为她, 我刚来美国的生活过渡的平稳顺利. 我总是庆幸, 上天带给我她这样一个贵人, 让我的留学生生活少了很多的艰辛.

我怎么能想到, 那些和Dr. Zhao在一起的美好的时光, 只能永远留在记忆里. 我怎么能想到, 1998年毕业的分别, 就是永远不会再见...如果我知道, 在我生命中, 只有短短的两年的时间 and Dr. Zhao相处我一定会想尽办法延长它.....我是多么的后悔, 没有早和她联系, 虽然我一直在心里想着她...还记得她对我说, 一放假就回中国, "因为父母年纪大了, 看一回就少一回..." 如今, 话犹在耳, 她的母亲还健在, 而她却已离去.

Dr. Zhao对我来说, 亦师亦友亦家人, 她总是给予,

而我却无以回报, 我还在等着她什么时候来我这玩, 如今却在人间再也看不到她的情影...我总觉得, 她就还在电话的那一头, 只要一接通电话, 就会听到她爽朗地笑, 熟悉的北京腔, 还有她的鼓励....仿佛她还在对我说I like you as a person, but you've got to work harder...

Dr. Zhao是那种为数不多的融合了东西方文化精华的人. 在她身上, 你可以看到"又热烈又恬静, 又深刻又朴素, 又温柔又高傲, 又微妙又率直"的特质, 非常有魅力.

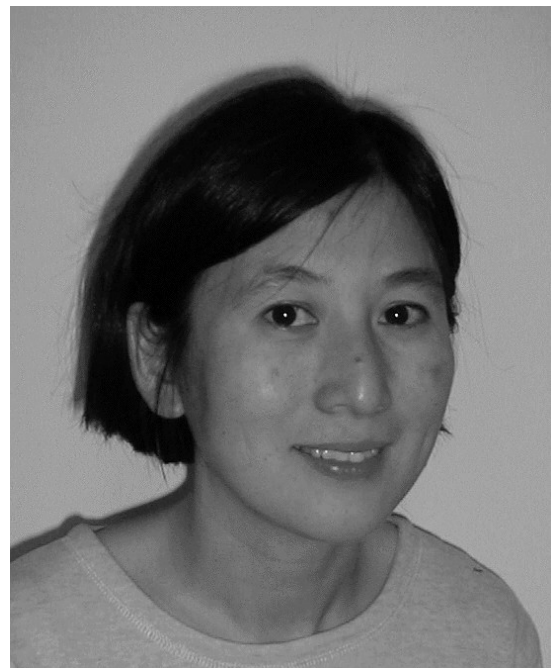
我真的非常非常思念她.....我只能含泪望着夜空, 想象着她已变成了一颗明亮的星星, 在那里闪耀, 永远照看着我们.....

我还是不能相信, 多么希望这只是一个恶梦, 明日醒来时, 一切如昨, 她还在那座美丽的校园里, 留着短发, 穿着漂亮的裙子, 站在讲台上, 精神充沛地, 冲我们微笑.....就象以前一样.

我知道自己心里有一个位置, 因她的离去, 而永远空着.....

人生真是如梦, 当知道珍惜时, 昔人已去.....留给我们的, 是无尽的思念.....

- Qing Xia



I am struggling for the right words to express my grief over Fang's passing away in merely 10 days after I learned she was terminally ill.

I came to know Zhao Fang in 2004 when she was elected the first female president of NACOAT (currently COTA) and I served on NACOTA board of directors. I attended the 4th International Conference of Chinese Transportation Professionals (第四届交通运输领域华人学者国际学术研讨会) in Wuhan, China, 15-19 June, 2004, which Zhao Fang co-chaired with the vice president of Wuhan University of Technology. Coming from the railway world, I am unable to say much about Fang's professional qualifications and achievements. I am sure hers would easily dwarf mine as she also physically dwarfed me. Also, in the last six years, I have learned she was not a person who would be content with yesterday's glory, or would ever live on promise. She said what she meant and delivered what she promised.

During the Wuhan conference and the post-conference Yangtze River cruise, I was fortunate to know more about Fang than I normally would, thanks to her daughter Leah and my daughter Helen. Leah and Helen were the only two girls in their age group, hanging out together wherever we went. I was amazed by Fang's passionate love of nature and the generous care she displayed for the people that she did not even know. On the bus from Wuhan to Yichang and on the boat cruise, Fang told us how much she admired the beauty of nature. As the boat was sailing along Wuxia Gorge towards Baidi City, she told me that if she had means she would buy a house on the river bank and enjoy the beautiful scenery every day, pointing to the houses dotting the green forest that drapes the river bank. Helen and I were on the same pea-pot boat (skiff) with Fang and Leah during the Shennong Stream drifting. We pleasantly witnessed Fang's generosity when she tipped the tow-men who hauled our boat up stream in large amounts, an event that Professor Sun Xiaoduan also penned in her article.

Fang was surprisingly open and honest. On the bus back to Wuhan, our conversations encompassed a wide range of topics, much on our college experiences, children's education, personal interests, and family relationships. That was when we learned much about each other. When I told her that my father died of liver cancer at age of 51, she showed great pity. It struck me really hard when she died not much older than my father. My sorrow grows deeper since I will not be able to fulfill my promise to play host to show her around Australia one day, as she once

expressed her desire to visit Australia of which I am a citizen. I feel sorry that I could not go to Qing-Cheng Mountain with her after the Wuhan conference when she invited us. I also regret that I was unable to accept her invitation to tour Inner Mongolia with her and Leah following the 5th International Conference of Chinese Transportation Professionals in Xian, China.

It is really unfair that the cancer has robbed us of all the beautiful dreams and memories of Fang and that she departed the world so abruptly. My sadness is only tempered by the knowledge that my well-wish card arrived at her bedside just in time. My heart was aching when I learned Fang whispered my name while reading my card.

Life is like a river. It has both smooth and rough patches. It has swift currents and even hidden reefs under calm surfaces. But it will evenly reach its destiny regardless which route it takes. Fang has lived a purposeful life, and completed her journey well worth celebrating.

Fang's countless friends may think I am one of her close friends. I am actually just one of many. Fang made everyone feel as if she was one of their dearest friends, because she had cherished so many souls.

I would like to share a few quotes with Fang's family and friends, which I now understand better than ever.

Death leaves a heartache no one can heal, love leaves a memory no one can steal. - From Ireland

Life is eternal, and love is immortal, and death is only a horizon; and a horizon is nothing save the limit of our sight.

- Rossiter Worthington Raymond

When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure.

In tears, I wish Fang peace in eternity.

Yu-Jiang Zhang





天喪英才志未酬身先亡
 多少遺恨
 趙放妹

家失梁柱 子未立女尚幼
 無限哀傷

兄趙政 弟趙改 挽
 趙徹

二零一零年拾貳月捌日
 兄趙政嫂吳智明泣拜



赵放吾妹 聪颖美慧 天之娇女 自幼勤奋 苦读终生 饱学成儒
事业恢宏 如日中天 木期竟遭病魔 骤而撒手西归。悲哉 夜不
能寐 痛彻心腑。妹此一生 令兄等骄傲 望吾妹西行，一路走好，
达于仙境 托梦老母 保佑平安。

放放 你永远活在我心里
最爱你的妈妈

