

Remarks at Dr. Wen Wang Memorial Panel

October 4, 2018 at Denver, CO

Mark Robbins

Hello, Everyone. My name Mark Robbins. I knew Wen mostly from associating with him here, but we were fellow alumni of the Bill Duncombe Club. Both of us shared him as advisor and mentor [at Maxwell]. When I first got to know Wen, he was so polite about his experience there. And I was asking him how was it going in Maxwell. He said 'good'. And I asked how do you like working with Bill Duncombe, and he said 'good' because he was always so nice. Then I said "he works you really hard, doesn't he?" He just laughed. He had never said a bad word about his experience but I could tell he was getting the full treatment. Wen was so excited several years ago when a bunch of us got to go to Sichuan province. We were there for 4 or 5 days. He had a list of about 15 things he wanted us all to do. I guess he must have been disappointed we didn't get to do all of them but it was fun to have been there.

I remember one thing about him in particular. When I was on leave for a year and stayed in Berkeley, California when Wen was there. We were supposed to get together for dinner. We planned this for weeks. And we'd been doing this by email and at the last minute I got very sick and I couldn't go and so I tried to call the restaurant but couldn't reach him. I was worried about having him stranded there and being upset and worried. But I had to go to the doctor. I got back a long time later and went anxiously checked my emails. There were 2 or 3 emails from Wen. I thought he must be very upset with me. But the first email said 'are you okay?' The second said 'are you sure you are okay?' And then 'Mark just want to know if you're okay'. That was I guess characteristic and worth telling. So thanks for letting me share that.