

Speech at Dr. Wen Wang Memorial Panel

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Standing here, it is still hard for me to believe that Dr. Wen Wang is not and will never be with us at the ABFM conference.

I, like so many you, knew him as a colleague, a scholar, and above all, as a friend. Wen and I first met in the beautiful summer in Syracuse back to 2002 and our friendship has remained since then. He was charming, warming, and charismatic. He welcomed so many friends into his life in every place he lived.

We both attended ABFM conference every year and shared so many good times together. Several years ago when the ABFM conference was in D.C. Wen recommended a good Chinese restaurant and drove us a long way there. We had a very good dinner. On the way back, our car was badly hit by another vehicle. Wen was very gentle and patient, and spent a lot of time in that evening talking with insurance companies even though he had a presentation the next day. He was a gentle man in all aspects, and nice to everyone around him.

As an award-winning scholar, Wen's academic career has been successful. We started research collaboration several years ago, and we planned to work on several papers together. Our first paper and probably his last paper was just published in Public Budgeting & Finance. He was in serious condition when we were working on the revisions. Even at that difficult time, he still tried his best to seriously revise and improve the paper.

I consider myself so fortunate to have known and collaborated with such a wonderful friend and colleague. Wen has left us so many wonderful moments and legacies. Those memories will continue to be carried within our hearts forever.