

Prof. Lau has such a profound influence on me, both professionally and personally. He was one of the key driving forces in setting up the Enrichment Stream in the CUHK math department, and I was lucky to be in one of the first cohorts of this Enrichment Stream. The prospect of being able to study with a group of enthusiastic peers was really attractive to me, and the Enrichment Stream worked perfectly as our teachers had planned. In addition, Prof. Lau had this wonderful vision of giving undergraduate students some international research experience, which he achieved by setting up a summer exchange program with Cornell via Bob Strichartz. I was one of the first to take part in this summer exchange program, and it totally changed my life. In fact, that got me interested in fractals and harmonic analysis, which was the subject of my study with Prof. Lau as an M.Phil student. During my M.Phil., I'd give a presentation every other week, and due to my partial understanding of the subject, my presentations were at times quite hard to follow. Nevertheless, when I struggled on the board, Prof. Lau always remained patient, and encouraged me to keep going. When I was Prof. Lau's student, I was also heavily involved in the Enrichment programme for young mathematical talents (EPYMT), which he and other colleagues initiated, and I was pleased to witness how successful that was - it brought in a whole new stream of very enthusiastic students in the department. In fact, if I remember well, in 2004 CUHK math came top 5 among all programmes in CUHK in terms of admission. It was a huge leap from the situation when Prof. Lau first assumed chairmanship in 1996.

Coming back to my M. Phil. study, I am very thankful for a problem that Prof. Lau suggested. It reflects very well his taste about problems, and was very inspiring. Eventually Prof. Lau supported my application to graduate schools in the US, and encouraged me when I applied for an Assistant Professorship at CUHK after I finished my postdoc. I cannot be more grateful for his unconditional support throughout each stage of my academic career.

To summarize, I am one of the many fortunate students in a generation to have benefited from the many initiatives Prof. Lau put forward as a Chairman at the CUHK math department. By the time I returned to CUHK as an Assistant Professor, the positive impact of Prof. Lau during his 16 years of Chairmanship was already very clearly felt. And over the years, he extended warm friendship to all colleagues and students. He has been successful in more than just building a team - he really built a family within the CUHK math department.

The fond memories you've brought us will always be with us, our dear friend and teacher.