

1969 NCTU 35th Vegas Reunion

• 控工 58 級 / 張兆永

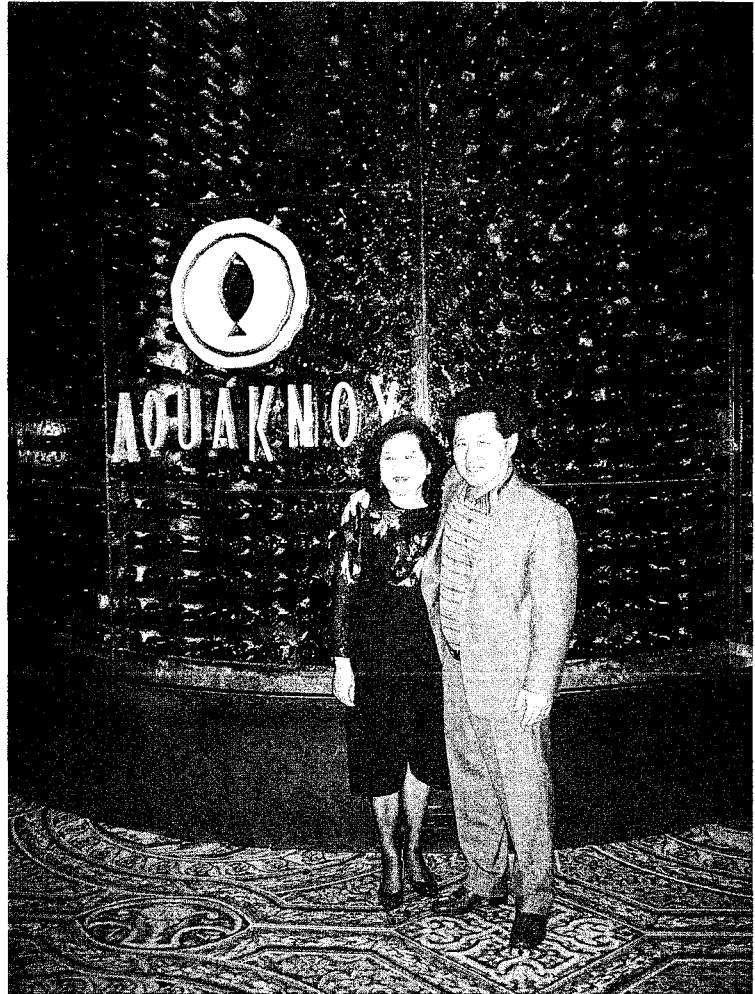
My heart started pumping irregularly around 4:30PM at AquaKnox Seafood Restaurant, as I would be seeing San-Yen Shi and wife MaiHwei (施森源夫婦) the first time for many years! Alas! Here came two of them, familiar figures I used to recognize in my Stony Brook years where I received so much help from them. Now they have grandchildren already!

Then came a stout build like a 007 Agent, Ling-Shen Cheng and his wife Mei (鄭陵生夫婦) with fabulous face rivaling Bond's girls. What a pleasant surprise reunion to see healthy and strong Ling after good 35 years! As we talked, we hardly noticed it had already been that long. We were really touched as Ling and Mei drove two days from Albuquerque, New Mexico. I told myself I could not afford disappointing them as they came from so far away. Shortly came very sociable Ling's son Jeff Cheng and girlfriend Rebecca, both medical students all the way from Brown University in Rhode Island. We were very elated to see younger people flying in from so far away as well.

As soon as I set my foot in the room, here arrived our most respected senior member Jeff Jen-Tang Chen and wife Susan (陳正堂夫婦) all the way from Taiwan, along with his beautiful daughter Yvonne and Yvonne's handsome hubby Hiro from San Francisco Bay area. Hiro and Yvonne are an excellent successful example of our NCTU younger generation. They are a perfect couple with cordiality and gracefulness all combined into one being. Congratulations to Jeff and Susan! Jeff exercises his monumental influence to keep things in order by providing NCTU'69 Alumni Internet Forum foundation. Every time when I open those Alumni Roster spreadsheets, my gratitude grows linearly as I read it line by line. Don't think Jeff is a serious nut. Wait till you hear him emulate the old president Chiang (編按：老蔣總統) with his famous opening speech. He made us laughed in tears and spasm in our stomach. Applause to Jeff's speech was almost shaking the roof of AquaKnox that night.

Wu-Haung Cheng and wife Bhi-Yung (鄭武皇夫婦) arrived in such an elegant

outfit, only seen at Grammy Award (編按：葛萊美獎) Ceremony. Wu-Haung's tuxedo made me wonder whether we had a Senator attending our gathering. Bhi's pleasant beige dress matched perfectly with her hubby. My "Alzheimer" started kicking in, so I am now excused to list our classmates' arrival in a lumped description below. I hadn't seen Sun-Maw Yang and wife Nora (楊森茂夫婦) in good 35 years. Both impressed me with the man's genius in mathematics and lady's gracefulness in wishing her hubby the very best. Nora's constant reminding Sun-Maw to keep connected with NCTU folks indicated sublimated love is indeed priceless. Same was observed in Ruey-Maw Hong and Mrs. Hong (洪瑞懋夫婦).



▲ 張兆永學長夫婦攝於2004年3月27日，交大民58級在美國Vegas所舉行之畢業35周年團圓晚會(照片來源：http://www.pbbase.com/jeff_C)

Then came our good old Danny Two-Shen Fong and his beloved wife Agnes (方鮑生夫婦), along with old buddy Peter Ding-Yenn Ma and wife Ruby (馬定遠夫婦). Since Danny had a back pain recently, faithful Ma was right next to him in case Danny needed a "cane". Both these two couples were from Houston. They came from the same flight, they lived in the same hotel in Vegas, and for sure they would leave by the same flight. I am deeply impressed and touched for the utmost spirit of NCTU'69 classmates that we reach out and help out one another when needs arise. Two-Shen generously shared his rich and full life experience being in business of fruits and metals, that none had before. We should be very proud of such a genius alumni like Two-Shen that many of us can learn from. Peter's

humble introduction of his meeting Ruby was both sleek and nerve racking.

Chris Chi-Hsun Yu and wife Josephine (俞基訓夫婦) came in with such young faces made me wonder whether it was 35th year reunion or just the 5th year reunion. They both looked so young that you had to see in your own bare eyes to believe it. Chris's kind remarks exhibited his full professor attribute in the wireless field. Then came Professor Ben-Dau Tseng and Mrs. Tseng (曾本道夫婦) came whose polite appreciation on Larry Chiang's (蔣澤蔭) introduction to their marriage reminded us to thank for Larry's red wine as well. Cheers, Larry!

I introduced myself and had a nice chat with Rosemary and Joyce Hsieh, but where was Jim Sie-Gen Hsieh (謝世堅)? Finally, he was located in a table busying with markers to write down people's names and their spouses to ensure none would be mistaken. Jim has been absolutely instrumental to make our 35th year reunion a great success by providing world class mediator with Bob Hope class of humor to prevent us stepping onto each other. Special thanks to Jim. By the way, his beautiful daughter Joyce having a very sweet smile now is a graduate student at Harvard Law School. That school has alumni like Hillary Clinton, Robert Kennedy, past presidents, and many political heavy weights. Younger generation boys please take serious notes. Carmen told me later the restaurant captain kept clapping his hands as Joyce was introduced in English. Good for you, Joyce!

Talking about young men, I almost forgot Wen-Liang Wu and his graceful wife Lian (吳文良夫婦). My "Alzheimer" was getting bad, I really could not recall when they came. They have two handsome sons, Andrew and Michael. They are both Berkeley top graduates, looking for young ladies with decent backgrounds such as from NCTU families.

Incidentally, Wen-Liang is an excellent and experienced Wall Street Investor. We ran out of time or he would give us a talk on "Investment by Discipline". He even prepared the handout materials. Hopefully, Wen-Liang can send us a copy before our next reunion. Hawaii is a good choice, only about half way for all alumni, right?

Most behaved Ming-Jer Tsai and wife Rose (蔡明哲夫婦), from MIT Lincoln Lab in Boston, drove from Los Angeles during their vacation. Along with just arrived Paul Yien-Song Hwang and wife Sophia (黃炎松夫婦). This made our attendance rate 100%! By any standard, this is something fact beats argument, hands down. Teasing Wen-Liang from Ming-Jer's dry remarks was truly unique. And Paul's humble and frank joke to pro-

nounce "San Juice" for "San Jose" in his first US visit 33 years ago were making us laugh our heads off. We really had great fun night in Vegas!

Wait, wait! Where were Pat and Sue (楊育民夫婦)? They are usually the first to arrive and the last to leave. But where were they now? As I was pondering, here came the most popular and beloved Pat Yuh-Min Yang and fabulously exquisite wife Sue. Along with them, two huge wrapped gift boxes about my height and weight. After the "pre-arranged" lottery drawing, Carmen and I were given the first prize presented by the most senior member Jeff Chen. How dare could I refuse? (Hee, Hee.)

Upon opening the gift wraps, Carmen and I became speechless in front of two huge and heavily glittering Murano masterpieces from expensive Venetian stores. My jaw dropped to the floor, to say the least. This is all done behind Carmen and me again. Pat, you are responsible this time and should not make this a habit as I need to abide by my mother's rule. From the bottom of our hearts, Carmen and I like to thank everyone so very much for the kindness and graceful gestures, which we will treasure for life.

In the end, after sharing longevity secrets witnessed from my 102 year-old father, we were highly trained by Jeff's high standard of picture posturing and lined up couple by couple for all 17 alumni and the spouses. Hiro, Yvonne, and Joyce were so gracious to take pictures for us.

It took us more than 45 minutes to say good-bye one by one for we were very reluctant to part. As we bid farewell to Pat and Sue to different floors in the elevator past midnight, Carmen was relieved to say her mission was completed. I was so thankful to her for the arrangement she put in so much time and efforts to ensure it happened the way she expected. I comfort myself by thinking I have a lifetime to thank her back. I was too excited to fall asleep as so many cheerful moments flashing in my head at the same time. I wanted so much to capture that special life experiences to keep them eternal with us. I was glad to allow time to mention the well wishes from those who wanted but could not make it to Vegas from all over the world. Thank you to all of NCTU'69 folks! We did have a "world-class" fun time together!

The last glimpse at my watch was 4:25 a.m. Sunday March 28th, 2004.

Thank you all for the priceless memories!

Carmen and Max(張兆永夫婦敬上)