

Condolences

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It is very sad to learn that Dr. Hu passed away - The world lost a wonderful and tireless botanist! :(

I had hoped to see Dr. Hu during my planned trip to Hong Kong this fall. I deeply regret that I did not make this trip earlier.

Dr. Hu was a great mentor in botany and life to many younger botanists. I was lucky to receive her generous help and guidance while I visited Harvard University in 1989. To me, she had been a great teacher, a loving mother, and a good friend. She set me a wonderful example of hard-working, modest life, and kindness. I had many first times in my life with Dr. Hu:

First time learned from her how to use a gas pump to fuel a car; first time to collect Ginkgo seeds with her and washed them with one hand (the other hand covered my nose :), dried them in the sun on a roof, cooked them, and consumed them :) - delicious botanical food!; first time listened to the story by her how tea was introduced to India and Western countries; first time to walk along Charles River in Boston with her story-telling about Boston, Mayflower, and frequency of flight landing and departure...; first time to visit a church; first time learned how to use a vacuum to clean the carpet, to boil eggs in an energy-saving method, and to wash dishes clean with little detergent :)..... All were fun and educational; benefited me for my whole life!

I had always been amazed by how fast and efficient she got things done, by her one handed-driving (when necessary), and alertness and fast reaction at her age of 80 at that time! The memory of living with her for a few months years ago has always been so dear and vivid to me. She lives forever in my heart!

My deepest sympathy goes to her family for their loss...

May Dr. Hu rest in peace in Heaven!

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