

Frank, You'll be Sorely Missed

by Gopal Gupta

I had the privilege of having an office right next door to Frank's for eight and a half years. Soon after I arrived at NMSU, Frank came to my office and asked me if I could help him locate his keys, that he had misplaced some where in his office overcrowded with books and papers. I did manage to find his keys, and there were many more such occasions when I helped him locate his keys. Gradually, we came to know each other, to the point where he became one of my best friends—even though he was 42 years my senior. I could tell him almost anything, personal or professional, and he would always give me sound and thoughtful advise. Frank was not only a gifted mathematician and researcher, he was also a very wise man.

He was also my role model, and still is. I would always marvel at his capacity to produce ideas, the urgency with which he pursued research, and his thirst to discover new knowledge. Even though he was past retirement age, he worked with an intensity that I could not match—and I was a young assistant professor. I will feel very lucky if in my old age I could be half as active as Frank was in his old age.

I feel sad that I could not say my final good bye to Frank before he left us. However, I do find solace in the fact that Frank had a full life. He had varied interests, from painting and poetry writing to Mathematics and Computer Science. Frank was infectiously passionate about Graph Theory, as we all know very well. Any one who came in contact with him ended up knowing something about Graph Theory; And I can envision Frank sitting today in heaven and teaching Graph Theory to the angels!

I regret that I knew Frank only for 12 and a half years. I wish our path had crossed earlier so that I could have had the benefit of his friendship and wisdom for a longer time.

Good bye Frank, you will be sorely missed, by me, as well as my family, to whom you were affectionately known as Uncle Frank. Good bye Uncle Frank, may your soul rest in peace.