

A Tribute to Seok Hui

In yesterday's Straits Times, Seok Hui's family acknowledged UWAS support during their bereavement. Your care and concern for Seok Hui during her illness must have meant a lot to her and her family. I returned from Australia recently and missed the funeral.

Early this year I came to know of Seok Hui's illness. Although in great discomfort and possibly also great pain, Seok Hui would often sit awkwardly on the floor of her simply furnished three-room flat to be at the computer, which was placed on a low table, so as to be able to work on the UWAS website. Much as they extended her life, the chemo sessions sapped away her strength, leaving her weak and unable to stand up straight. I'm sure it took tremendous effort for her to sit on the floor for any length of time, but she faithfully tended the website to keep it up to date.

Seok Hui taught at the National University of Singapore Business School for the greater part of her career. Few know she was trained as an engineer and was also a published mathematician and statistician. Barely 30 and while in the U.S., she published complex mathematical formulas in acclaimed journals. Her shy, humble nature belied her great intellect and scholarship and she had a strong moral sense. Her bedroom library was filled with books on Christianity and she was studying Hebrew before she fell ill. Throughout her terrible illness, she never avoided seeing people and would talk freely with her friends about anything. She attended UWAS functions whenever she could, hiding the ravages of suffering and disfigurement with good composure and a wig. She loved being in touch with people - most times, this was via the internet or telephone. Once, while on the phone with her, I could hear her retching away. Sometimes her voice was barely above a whisper. Even in the last days, although she was desperately ill and the large doses of morphine could no longer contain the pain, she would want to talk if she could. Right to the end, she faced her illness with courage and dignity.

People are remembered for what they have done in life and also for the way they go. For UWAS members, Seok Hui will always be remembered for her staunch belief in the UWAS cause, her unstinting efforts in carrying out the arduous (and often thankless!) task of Hon Secretary for two terms, and for her efforts in giving UWAS a Web presence, thus linking us to the world at large. Our eyes brim over and our hearts are full. Seok Hui will be remembered with love and admiration by all of us.

Rosemary Khoo
Founding President

OBITUARY



Ng Seok Hui, UWAS member, past secretary, and first webmaster, passed away on August 14, 2004.

Seok Hui was earlier teaching in the School of Business Administration, NUS. After her resignation from her teaching career, she left for a mission trip to America. Later she studied Hebrew with Malka an Israeli in Israel. She returned to Singapore to work for a while with a computer company. Since the end of 2003, she volunteered to build the website for UWAS. She was earlier diagnosed with cancer of the colon and had been treated for cancer periodically. Despite her frail health, Seok Hui carried on relentlessly with the work on the web. Within a month, UWAS web was up and was officially launched in February 2004. Seok Hui was admitted to the hospital for the last time in late July. During the last few weeks she could take only fluids. From 10 - 13 August, Malka came over to Singapore to be with her in the Hospice at Mt Alvernia. On Sat 14 August our very dear sister and friend passed away peacefully. She will be dearly missed by all in UWAS.

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