

4.12 Recalling Professor Da Ruan

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Professor Da Ruan passed away unexpectedly. I received the news from an email when I was about to send a manuscript to him. I could not believe my eyes and tears streamed down my face. How desperately I hoped that it was not true!

Prof. Da Ruan and I had not met each other until the ISKE hosted by Southwest Jiaotong University in 2007. We had been communicating by email before our first meeting there and he had always been patient and serious about consulting and seeking help of a doctoral student like me. We met face to face when he came to register while I was a volunteer for the ISKE. He was so energetic and with such a good memory that he mentioned to me that I was one of the doctoral students of Southwest Jiaotong University and that he remembered what we had discussed in our emails.

Professor Da Ruan came to lecture in Chengdu many times and each time he explained the profound in simple terms and guided a practical and definite way for out scientific research. Professor Da Ruan was a devoted and serious scholar. He often made international long-distance call from Belgium to discuss some academic issues with me whenever I consulted him so as that some of my research was inspired by him. He revised every of my papers carefully and discussed them with me and he often emailed some references and academic information to me. He always encouraged me with such remarks as “You’re intelligent!” or “Your English is quite good!” and his encouragement indeed made me more confident and work harder. He always conveyed tirelessly his ideas and experience to others with all his heart. I learned so much from him that I was not only broadened in vision but also influenced by a noble soul!

Professor Da Ruan was approachable and humorous and all of us felt relaxed and delighted every time we were chatting or having dinner together. Professor Da Ruan once encouraged me to host an international meeting and gave me many advices about it while he, Professor Tianrui Li and Professor Guangquan Zhang and I were drinking tea together after the FLINS2010 last August. And we discussed it in detail for a long time pleasantly. I knew from him that we do our research work only for scientific interesting. It was such a pity that it was my last meeting with him!

I admired his great academic achievement, noble personality and great character. I will bear him in mind forever. Professor Da Ruan has gone but everything about him has engraved on my mind. He was my good teacher, my old brother and my good friend. He influenced and benefited all my life. I am deeply moved by and deeply grateful for all this! All that I could do is expressing my best wish for him.



Prof. Da Ruan and Li in Chengdu, China after his tutorial in 2008