

Remembering Professor Lucie Cheng

Paul Ong, Ph.D.

I had known Professor Lucie Cheng throughout most of the quarter century that I have been at UCLA, as a friend and colleague. Far more important, she was a mentor during my first year out of graduate school as a very green post-doctoral fellow and then as a freshly minted assistant professor. Her approach was to throw as much in my direction as possible, always one step beyond my comfort zone as a way to pull me along my career. A little frightening and often filled with uncertainty, but I am forever grateful for that experience and training. She was both supportive and constructively critical, and her support of others was not readily apparent because she was not one to claim public credit. My admiration for her runs deep because she was intellectually and personally dedicated to making UCLA and Asian American Studies agents for progressive social change, a devotion that later took form as her own Graduate School for Social Transformation Studies at Shih Hsin University. I remember a conversation about retirement many years ago, and how she thought it was such a foreign idea. Lucie was engaged in so many different ways and arenas, and we are all the richer because of her drive, energy and contributions. I will greatly miss her.

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