

A letter to Professor David Heywood Parker: **Life-writing, writing about life!**

Dear Professor Parker,

It is your most well-known AUTOBIOGRAPHY class that we got to know each other.

The first assignment on my autobiography is not easy,
I could not write negative words about myself, in other words,
I had to boast of myself in front of a professor through writing - and that is
the crux of writing an autobiography.

I once had an hour long consultation with you. It is not just me asking you about my future, but also you asking me every bit of Janet Frame's works to testify if I had read. Your patience in guiding me, I would not say interrogating me, is invaluable. Sorry that I was too demanding to ask you for more than half an hour at the start because I would love to chat with you more. Justice and human rights are the essence of you. You pragmatically tell me a job is a basic need of humans.

I remember whenever I sent you festive greetings, you replied me promptly (I remembered I asked Tracy where you were one day I thought about you and she told me you got retired). The very last time was the time you were hospitalized feeling upset about the tremor. Then the next few times I got out of touch with you until I heard from Helen, your wife the very first time. I heard from someone I knew in an alumni choir practice you were not well. I was feeling very sad; then a few days after receiving Helen's reply, you left us,
leaving us the most humorous Australian laughter in peace.

I miss you, and remember all the coincidental incidents we met inside and outside CUHK campus in connection (and the last connection is with my fond current supervisor Professor Simon Young that I bet your wife Helen must have whispered to you near your bed on the last few days.)

You will be fondly missed, Professor Parker!

For more details of the incidents, please refer to Facebook post on Professor Parker's wall: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=10153143610636603&id=561281602.

*My love of writing could not be ignited
without your passion for love of WORDS in literary studies.*

Love,

Ivy Lai Chun Chun

(admitted at CUHK English in 2007)