

## EDITOR'S CORNER

### **A Farewell to the Most Dedicated Secretary of My Career – Barbara Caldwell**

Dear Fred,

I cannot begin to tell you how I feel about the loss of Barbara! I could hardly function when I heard the news.

I have had more than 200 secretaries and office assistants in my long career and Barbara was my MOST beloved secretary – ever.

When I heard the news, my heart sank. It was the first time in my life that I dropped my glasses on the floor in disbelief and sadness. My mind went back to so many memories of wonderful, happy times that Barbara provided for the Kansas State University Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Food Science Institute, my humble office, of the International Rapid Methods Workshop that she loved so much, of all the smiles, the friendships, the encouragements, the corrections of my misuse of the King's English in grammar, misspellings, nuisances, expressions, etc. I have missed her greatly ever since she left Call Hall in retirement. I called her every now and then to find out about her well-being. She always assured me that she was getting better, and her voice was stronger every time I communicated with her. I was sure that she would be better soon.

Her loss was felt by all her beloved faculty members, administrators, coworkers, students, personnel and friends in Call Hall, in Weber Hall and beyond.

She was such a fantastic secretary. In more than 10 years of dedicated service, she had known me so well that I did not have to ask her to do some routine assignments. She would do things before I even asked her. One day, I said to her, "Barbara, you can almost run my workshop since you know all the details!" She smiled and said, "Yes, Dr. Fung, but you always have something unexpected happening in your schedule. I need to keep track of your unpredictable plans at all times!"

One of the most lovely moments in our interactions was the 20th anniversary of the International Workshop on Rapid Methods and Automation in Microbiology when Dr. Catherine L. Fung, my wife, placed a gold medallion on Barbara's neck. Barbara wore a gorgeous black gown for the occasion. They matched perfectly, and Barbara was happy and beaming with pride and joy. I was planning to give her a silver medallion on the 25th anniversary in June 2005. We will dearly miss her this year.

Fred, such is life. Our loss is nothing compared with your loss of a wonderful wife and with your daughter's loss of a wonderful mother. No word can express our sympathy and sorrow in the departure of Barbara.

In this moment of grief, we share with you and pray that with your strength and love for Barbara, all will be fulfilled in the greater plan of life's destiny.

Representing administrators, professors, students and friends in Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) and Kansas State University (KSU) to the Caldwell family and with the deepest respect and affection,

DANIEL Y. C. FUNG