

유옥균 선배님을 추모하며,

누구에게든 그렇겠지만 제게 유학의 첫걸음은 유난히 힘들고 두려웠습니다. 생소한 전공분야를 그것도 완벽하지 않은 영어로 감당해 내야 하는 부담감 때문에 우왕좌왕하고 있을 때 옥균 선배는 지적으로 인간적으로 제게 든든한 버팀목이 되어주었습니다. 유학생들의 어려움을 호소하는 후배들의 이야기에 늘 귀를 기울여서 들어주었고 함께 아파해주었고, 자신이 살아낸 유학 생활을 들려주며 따뜻한 조언도 아끼지 않았습니다. 새로운 학문 세계로 들어가며 경험하게 되는 흥분에 들떠 있을 때, 또한 더딘 학문적 성과에 자주 조급해질 때 제게 인내심을 갖고 학문에 임하도록 용기와 격려를 아끼지 않았습니다. “가열찬 고민을 통해 보석 같은 SP를 쓸 수 있기를 빈다.” “어제는 이미 역사가 되었고, 내일은 미스터리고, 오늘은 선물, 그러니까 우리는 오늘을 선물(the present) 이라고 하지.”

Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift; that's why we call it...the present. 옥균 선배로부터 받은 학문적인 영감과 인간적인 따뜻함을 영원히 마음속에 간직하고 싶습니다.

DEDICATION TO OK KYOON YOO

Like anybody else who starts studying abroad, my first steps into a graduate program in an American university was particularly strenuous and arduous. That was mainly because I was neither that familiar with the field of study nor felt fully competent in doing academic work in English. Ok Kyoon witnessed from the start all my struggles with graduate work and provided me with support, advice and guidance. As an experienced international graduate student himself in the program, he was always sympathetic to other international students' concerns and needs. Whenever necessary, he would listen to others' experiences with their new academic demands and be willing to share his own experiences in efforts to provide encouragement and also to keep our spirits high. When I was inspired by seemingly overwhelming yet exciting new ideas and academic topics, he would pat me on the back saying, "Through rigorous reading, thinking and writing, I hope you will end up exploring the very topic that ignites your passion, and produce a beautiful SP in the end." Whenever I was down and worried about the slow progress of my graduate work, he would encourage me to be patient and do my best at the present time by quoting the saying "Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift; that's why we call it...the present." I have now come to the realization that with his warm-hearted and caring spirit and academic inspiration, he played a great part in my academic life as a mentor and for this I'd like to express my deeply felt gratitude.

Bong Gi Sohn