

IN MEMORIAM: MR. JAMES FUNG KIN-FUNG

敬悼馮建灃老師



(July 8, 1934 – March 6, 2010)

Graduated (Form 5) from Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1953
Taught at Wah Yan College, Kowloon, 1959-1963

A. Obituary



James Kin-Fung Fung



James Kin-Fung Fung of Norwalk, passed away on Saturday, March 6, 2010 in Norwalk Hospital, after being stricken ill. He was 75.

Born on July 8, 1934 in China in the Province of Guangsi, James was the son of the late Yum-Tian and Manfan (Chan) Fung. He received a Bachelors' Degrees in Civil Engineering from National Taiwan University in Taiwan in 1958.

Prior to his relocation to the States in 1963, James taught in Hong Kong for four years. He then received his M.S. in Physics from the University of Kansas in 1966. After moving to Norwalk in 1969, he became a professor at Norwalk Community College and the University of Connecticut, Stamford for over thirty years. He was very well regarded by his students and considered to be one of the best teachers they'd ever had.

Following his retirement in 2003, James continued his passion for road trips throughout the country. He was a lifelong automotive enthusiast: keeping up with the latest car news, attending auto shows, and took pride in personally maintaining his cars. But most of all, his family was his number one priority. He will be missed by all.

He is survived by his beloved wife of forty-two years, Mei-Mei Lum Fung; his son, Eric Fung of Norwalk; his brother, Adrian and his wife, Jean Fung of Arlington, Texas; his two sisters, Jian-San and her husband, Wen-Jin Lo and Jian-qing and her husband, Wang Jian, of China; several nieces and nephews.

From the obituary provided by the Hoyt Cognetta Funeral Home, see <http://www.norwalkfh.com/sitemaker/sites/hoytco0/obit.cgi?user=179235Fung>

B. Wah Yan College, Kowloon and the Fung's

B1. From Shield 1959

News of Our Past



Fung Kin Fung,
B.Eng.

Fung Kin Fung, B.Eng. went to Taita where he studied Civil Engineering. He organized the Special Freshman English Class for those more advanced in English.

B2. From Shield 1960

The Editorial

The sole outstanding event this year was the Blessing of our new Chapel by His Excellency, Mons. Lawrence Bianchi. This ceremony, which brought our many-year-old expectations to fruition, was a source of great happiness to us. The occasion receives full treatment in later pages.

CHANGES.

Our losses: Fr. Headon, Prefect of Studies, left us for a year's rest at home; Fr. Jones returned home to study Theology; Fr. Mallin sailed off to Cheung Chau; Fr. Cryan took ship to Manila for a special course in Biology; Mr. K. M. Chan and Mr. H. D. Hou left us to take up other positions. We offer them our sincere thanks for their radiant fire among those professorial nuggets whose combustion keeps the academic wheels revolving merrily.

Our gains: A hearty welcome awaited Frs. Brosnan and Cunningham who returned to us after five years absence. There was mutual delight between them and the Form 6 and Form 5 stalwarts whom they had taught in Form 1 and the Primary classes in 1953. Fr. F. Chan became Prefect of Studies. Fr. A. Tseng joined us from Singapore. We were very happy to welcome Mr. Shirlien Light, Mr. K. F. Fung, formerly a student of ours in Nelson Street and in this school, Mr. C. T. Hsi, a former student of both Wah Yan Colleges, and Mr. John Lam Cho Hon who joined our Staff after Christmas. To these new members on our Staff, we wish many successful chalk-years.

B3. From Shield 1964

Mr. Fung Senior – Mr. Fung Yum-Tien as WYK Staff



COLLEGE STAFF AND ROLL

Fortieth Academic Year 1963-64.

Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Farren, S.J. Rector
 校長范育倫神父
 Rev. Fr. M. Cobally, S.J. Minister
 事務主任汪之和神父
 Rev. Fr. Francis Chin, S.J. Prefect of Studies
 教務主任陳福偉神父
 Rev. Fr. J.J. McAser, S.J. Student Counsellor
 公教學生神師張光導神父
 Rev. Fr. Donal Taylor, S.J. Student Counsellor
 公教學生神師達樂義神父
 Rev. Fr. Patrick Fimeran, S.J. Sportsmaster
 體育主任方學良神父

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Rev. Fr. R. Kennedy, S.J.	簡理察神父	Rev. Fr. James E. Smyth, S.J.	石閣神父
Rev. Fr. J.M. Mallin, S.J.	連民安神父	Rev. J.B. Wong, S.J.	黃福炎修士
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Chan Pak Yung, Anthony, Esq.	陳柏容先生	Leung King Yiu, Esq.	梁鏡勇先生
Chan Ping Yuen, Esq.	陳平遠先生	Lo Chun Hong, Vincent, Esq.	盧振成先生
Ching Hing Chov, Esq.	程慶賜先生	Ma Yuk Lun, Esq.	馬玉麟先生
Choy Shing Pang, Desmond, Esq.	蔡成彭先生	Pun Yau Pang, Esq.	潘友彭先生
Fung Yum Tien, Esq.	馮鏗天先生	Sie Chung Tien, Peter, Esq.	謝中天先生
He Chun Yuen, Anthony, Esq.	何鎮源先生	Tam Chi Shing, Laurence, Esq.	譚志成先生
He Ping Ki, Michael, Esq.	何炳圻先生	Tam Wing Cheong, Gerald, Esq.	譚詠琪先生
Hsi Wei-Tehong, Louis, Esq.	許維中先生	Tang Shiu Kong, Esq.	鄧兆剛先生
Hsieh Wei-shiang, Esq.	薛偉祥先生	Waung Si King, William, Esq.	汪瑞景先生
Kong Chi Kwan, Francis, Esq.	江之鈞先生	R. J. Williams, Esq.	韋健臣先生
La Ping Chang, Joseph, Esq.	黎炳章先生	Wong Chia Wah, Esq.	黃展華先生
Lau Kai Yip, Paul, Esq.	劉繼業先生	Miss Wong Kit Kwan, Cecelia	黃潔君先生
Lau King Chi, Esq.	劉敬元先生	Andrew Yeung, Esq.	楊必安先生
Lau On Kwok, John, Esq.	劉安國先生	Yu Poon Leung, Damian, Esq.	余本良先生
Lee Hoi Chow, Hilary, Esq.	李海潮先生		

MEDICAL ADVISER

Dr. Y. Y. Tang, M.B., B.S. 校醫鄧以賢醫生

CATECHIST

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 Kwok Kam Pui, Peter, Esq. 郭錦培先生 Wong Wing, Esq. 黃榮先生

C. Photographs

C 1. Mr. Fung as Student at WYK

FORM V A

Form-Master: Rev. M. Brosnan, S.J.



6.	34.	14.	20.	9.	12.	1.	32.	3.	2.
13.	22.	16.	8.	17.	30.	5.	35.	13.	24.
10.	23.	36.	11.	19.	27.	4.	7.	29.	26.
15.	21.	18.	—	—	—	31.	28.	25.	

Mr. Fung in F5A, 1953 (#13 -2nd top row-2nd right-without glasses)

FORM VI

Form-master: Mr. Wong Chin Wah.



12. 9. 4. 20. 21. 16. 8. 5. 24. 17.
23. 10. 7. 19. — 3. 11. 22. 14. 1. 6.

Mr. Fung in F6, 1954 (#7-2nd top row-3rd left-without glasses)

C2. Mr. Fung's Classes



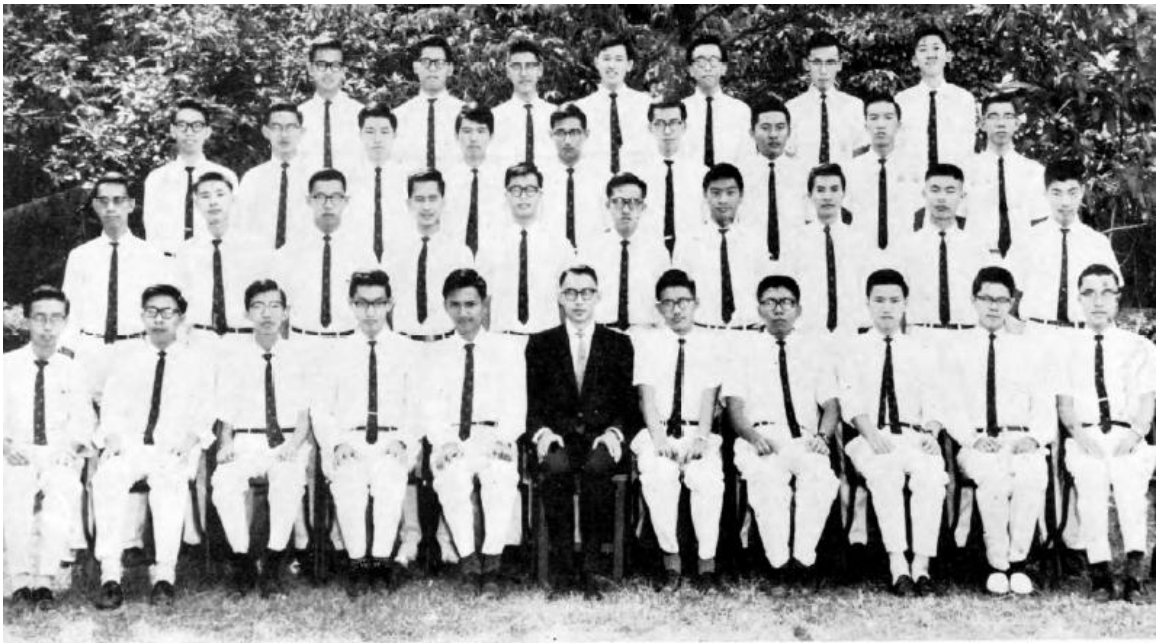
FORM VI (LOWER): SCIENCE, 1960 - 1961

Mr. Fung's Class (F6S 1960-1961)



LOWER SIXTH SCIENCE

Mr. Fung's Class (F6S 1961-1962)



LOWER SIXTH SCIENCE

Mr. Fung's Class (F6S 1962-1963)

C3. Mr. Fung with Students at a Picnic



(1962)

C4. Mr. Fung and Colleagues



Cheung Chau Retreat (1960)



Cheung Chau Retreat (1960)



What a Party! (1960)

D. Condolences, Memories and Eulogies

Wong Hin-Shing wrote (2011-06-21):

In the last few decades, I'd been asking my WYK-mates and my teachers if they had any news about Mr. James Fung Kin-Fung who taught us in F4/F5/F6 at WYK.

Last night, I accidentally came across this website - one of those curious coincidences of life:

<http://www.norwalkfh.com/sitemaker/sites/hoytco0/obit.cgi?user=179235Fung>

I discussed with Mr. Ho today. We agreed that the late Mr. Fung was the same teacher who taught us in the late 1950's and early 1960's.

I remember Mr. Fung as a very handsome young man, soft-spoken and gentle. I liked being in his classes. I think he taught me Trigonometry in F4C. I do remember that he taught us Physics in F5B. Unfortunately, I was one of the very few students who failed Physics in the School Cert Exam. (Well, that dashed my hope of enrolling in science class.)

Throughout the past few decades, quite a number of us have always wondered how Mr. Fung was doing. I always thought that maybe one of these days, at some WYK reunion events, we'll meet him again.

It came as a shock when I accidentally came across the obituary website on Mr. Fung.

I miss him very much. May he rest in peace!

Chan Doming wrote (2011-06-21):

Thanks for sending this info. Now I remember Mr. Fung! I took private lessons from him on Lo Ming Road in Kowloon City around Form 5. I think it was algebra. He's the one who told us that there were at the time only two people in the world who understood what a semi conductor was.

How did you find that Website on his demise??? In fact I had forgotten his name altogether, only his face and what he taught. He was a very serious person whom I respected, and I'm so glad he carved himself such a successful teaching career in his field.

Rod AuYang Siu-Lee wrote (2011-06-21):

That was him all right. He didn't change. I was one of his more hopeless students, but somehow I survived the Physics exam, which I think he considered a miracle.

The one thing I remember most vividly about him was his caustic comment about the trend at the time of people wearing glasses for purely cosmetic reasons. I was just

beginning to wonder if I needed glasses (for legitimate reasons), and, as a sensitive teenager I was a little bothered by this, but later I found it funny, especially since the comment was heartfelt.

Richard Li King-Hang wrote (2011-06-21):

We all agree “Fung Tsai” was a good and kind teacher and was dear to many of us. You and I thought and talked of him quite a few times when we were together. He will be very much missed by me and many of us, I am sure.

Joseph Chan Chi-Kong wrote (2011-06-21):

That must be him, Mr. Fung, sometimes called by us as “Fung Chai,” one of my very favorite teachers. I had been one of those who keep asking if there was any news on Mr. Fung. It is sad that as we learn about his whereabouts he has already left us. My interest in physics was highly due to his very clear and systematic teaching. I took some private tutoring from him on the subject too, the only time that I bothered getting such tutoring. The single incident that I remember most about his teaching was not on physics though. It was when I erroneously wrote "go inside" to mean "coincide", Mr. Fung openly complained about the low English proficiency of the student(s) (though he didn't mention my name). I was so embarrassed that I remember that until now. It did push me to pay more attention to my English. Well, Mr. Fung has left but he still is my favorite teacher.

Tse Tak-Fu wrote (2011-06-22):

I remember Mr. Fung very well. A great teacher whose face I remember very well even now.

By the way, I have already signed the guest book of the funeral.

Tse Tak-Fu wrote in the guest book of the funeral home (2011-06-22):

Mr. Fung was my teacher in Physics and Maths during my school days in Wah Yan College, Kowloon. A most inspiring teacher I must say. Even now, I have not yet met any other teacher of his calibre.

Shen Chi-Hung wrote in the guest book of the funeral home (2011-06-22):

Mr. Fung was my Physics teacher at Wah Yan College Kowloon, Hong Kong some fifty years ago. He was very dedicated and showed great passion in the classroom. My fellow students and I enjoyed his Physics class and respected him as a teacher very much.

Michael Lee Sai-Cheung wrote (2011-06-22):

I think Mr. Fung Kin-Fung was the Form Master for Form 6 Science when I was there. There was one incident in which one student did not go to a class picnic without informing him in advance. Mr. Fung was extremely angry and reported that to the principal and the student was suspended for two days. I can't remember for sure who that student was, but we all thought it was a bit too severe.

Mr. Fung always came across as very intelligent, which he was. His English was very, very good, especially considering he graduated from Taiwan. Another remarkable thing about him is that he never mixed English with Chinese in his conversations, not even a single word, which is a rule I learned from him and still strive to maintain to this day, although with a lot less success than Mr. Fung.

Clement Ching Yat-Biu wrote (2011-06-22):

Yes, it is Fung Sir because the write-up mentioned he received his MS in Physics from University of Kansas and had a brother Adrian.

In 1964, I took a Nuclear Physics course at Kansas, and I was surprised to see Fung Sir walking into the classroom. We recognized each other immediately and he sat next to me for the term. It felt a little funny that my Physics teacher became my Physics classmate. His brother Adrian was an Assist Prof of Elect Engineering at that time and looked after the Hong Kong students because there were only 70 of us there at that time. Fung Sir was very quiet and did not participate much in our Chinese students' activities. I remembered he was frequently sick with colds and flus. His teaching got me interested in Physics and I actually majored in Engineering Physics for 1 year until I found out I wasn't smart enough.

Harry Aitken wrote (2011-06-22):

I have a vivid memory of Fung Sir teaching me physics at Wah Yan.

My deepest condolences to his family, and may he rest in peace.

Fok Kee-Sau wrote (2011-06-22):

Mr. Fung is also my favorite teacher. He was sort of small build, young and shy, more like a Form 6 student than a physics teacher. Since he was studying in Taiwan, he had an American sounding English tone that we sometimes made fun of.

I guess our school's teaching policy was English only during classes and he stuck to it 100%. I remember once he was explaining how water changes state at 0 degree C to form solid ice and at the same time its density becomes less. Therefore it floats on top of water. We kept asking why it behaves this way continuously and in Chinese of course. He tried his best to explain this is how nature is in perfect English. Finally he was pressed so hard that he gave up and wrote on the blackboard in Chinese: 自然現象。 He

did not utter a single Chinese word during this heated exchange. I loved his Physics classes and missed him a lot. I am saddened learning his passing away.

Patrick Tai Chun-Leung wrote (2011-06-22):

I am so sad to learn of Fung Sir's passing. He was my favourite teacher in WYCK.

We were taught to honour and respect all our teachers; and sometimes we did, sometimes we did not. Certainly we found some teachers more "respectable" than others; but some we quietly laughed at, feared rather than admired. I can definitely say that Fung Sir was the teacher that inspired me to become a scientist, a physicist in particular.

I remember his quick intelligence, imagination, fairness and quiet authority. He taught me that what is important is to understand the subject, not just to memorize the answers or the techniques to get the answers. That was great revelation to me at that time.

I also remember Fung Sir's clear explanations and eloquence. As Michael Lee reminded me, I was impressed by his effort not to mix English with Chinese, a habit that many do in HK. That is something I also tried to emulate all my life. (I am sure it is much easier for me since I am now living in the US.)

I miss him.

Chan Doming wrote (2011-06-22):

I found it so moving that so many of us thought so highly of our Fung Sir! We seem all to have the same respect and admiration for this teacher. It's so interesting to read about each of us' memory of his life with us. Which goes to show how any one person can create such immense ripple effect in all of humanity... both in doing good and doing harm. I too liked Fung Sir a great deal. He was succinct, always to the point, never wasted a word and was totally committed to the pursuit of knowledge. I don't even remember him smiling!

May he rest in peace having had a wonderful life.

Michael Lee Sai-Cheung wrote (2011-06-22):

Another little story about Fung Sir that I remember, and some of you might remember as well. There was one time that he showed up in school with mumps. I guess at that time people generally did not know that moving around with mumps may cause infertility in men. Any mention about Fung Sir's children anywhere?

Yu Fong-ying wrote (2011-06-22):

I do not have clear memories of Fung Sir teaching. I remember his remarkable English, fluent with clear pronunciation and a certain nasal turn, which caused me much admiration and some wonder 'cos he was trained in Taiwan. Most likely he might have attended an English school in HK before going to Taiwan University.

On this point, it now appears to me that Wah Yan was wonderful in assembling so many learned teachers from all over China (Hsueh Sir, Lau King Chi, "General Lee", Fung Sir etc.) In the mid fifties, HK had not yet produced enough of her own teachers, I guess. Anyway, we were fortunate.

I went to his home for tutorials after my disastrous results in science in the school cert (credit in math, pass in all the other science subjects). Being put into Lower 6 Arts, a few of us sought the help of Fung Sir at his home. I hung on for about 2 months and then bowed to the fact that I am not scientific. In context, Fung Sir was working extremely hard to save up to go the US, as were many Taiwan-trained students.

From the obituary, I can see that Hong Kong's loss is the US's gain. He remained all his life a committed and respected teacher.

Chen York-Lung wrote (2011-06-22):

Mr. Fung was definitely an excellent physics teacher compared to many physics professors I encountered in the US. I would credit him much for my physics-major selection in college.

Jacob Chow Chue and I took tutorials from him in the summer of 1960.

One thing I remember vividly about Mr. Fung was that in F4B (WYK62), he quizzed a classmate nicknamed Sai Tin Yau (named after his residence in at the time) on the subject of polygram-of-forces. As Sai Tin Yau gave his answers step by step, Mr Fung followed and drew them up on the black-board. A perfect solution was produced. Yondani Butt and Albert Yueng who were in F4B (WKY62) may remember this.

Wong Hin-Shing wrote (2011-06-22):

(In answer to Yu Fong-ying's comment: "Most likely he might have attended an English school in HK before going to Taiwan University.")

According to Shield 59 and Shield 60, Mr. Fung was a past WYK.

Albert Lam Kwong-Yu wrote (2011-06-22):

Regrettably I cannot recall any memory of the late James Fung. Nonetheless my condolences to his family.

A Note about this Compilation

This compilation was undertaken as a labour of love and respect. The main function is to gather into one convenient place the tributes paid to Mr. Fung, addressed to his family and friends, and copied to me up to June 28, 2011. The tributes are confined to those from the Class of '61. The document serves as a kind of record of and tribute to an inspiring and beloved teacher, though an incomplete one.

I did the compilation and editing. Then Yu Fong-ying proofread it, to make the minimal number of adjustments to spelling and structure, and supplied the quote below. The document was sent out to get the writers' feedback and revisions, if any. The photos used are limited to those obtained from the school magazines, teachers and classmates and from the obituary website.

The pages are in a camera-ready form and can be printed out as a keepsake.

This electronic pamphlet has met with the approval of quite a few classmates, but it should be stated that this is not an official assignment of the '61 grads and does not represent them all. I am responsible for any errors incurred, errors of omission as well as commission.

I would like to thank all those who wrote and allowed their words to be collected, Yu Fong-Ying for proofreading and stylistic help, and Richard Li for encouragement and an excellent suggestion about photographs. A special thank you to Mr. Anthony Ho who gave plenty of advice and information, including precious data from Shields 1953 onwards, and reformatted the word document into pdf file. A special thank you also to Mr. Laurence Tam who supplied some information and photographs. For me, "the service and the loyalty I owe in doing it, pays itself." (Macbeth)

Our thoughts are with "Sie-Moe" Mrs. Mei-Mei Lum Fung, Eric and other members of Mr. Fung's family. May they draw strength from the knowledge that Fung Sir was, is and will be so well loved and respected by his colleagues and students.

Wong Hin Shing

June 28, 2011