

## **Tributes from United Board Trustees and Staff Members**

### *Trustees*

#### **Su Yon Pak:**

To be in Budi's presence was to witness wisdom and integrity in action. He shared his hard-earned insights generously—in every discussion and in every vote—accompanied by understated humor and a gentle twinkle in his eyes. His passion for Christian higher education in Asia ran deep; in service to the United Board's vision, he kept calling us to listen to the voices of 'the least of these' in the region. Grounded in faith and rooted in his beloved Indonesia, yet attentive to global realities, Budi gave himself selflessly to our common work. He was our colleague and our friend, a model trustee who leaves an indelible mark on the United Board. We will miss him deeply.

#### **Patricia Licuanan:**

What a shock! What a loss! My condolences and prayers to Budi's family. Rest in peace dear Budi.

When I was a new trustee of the United Board, it was Budi who first went out of his way to welcome me and strike up a conversation. Since that first meeting, Budi's friendly presence would always put me at ease. Budi was not just gracious, he was also very reflective and raised important points at meetings. I truly appreciated how easily he combined his deep Asian roots and experience with a broad global perspective. He was truly a most valued colleague and will be sorely missed.

#### **Boyung Lee:**

I received the sad news just as I was leaving the Colorado Symphony Hall in the dark, and I initially thought I had misread it. I am truly shocked and deeply shaken by this heartbreaking news.

Budi was a trustee colleague who consistently asked important questions, ones that many of us in the US context took for granted but might be unfamiliar to our Asian colleagues. His thoughtful inquiries often evoked moments of cultural humility in me, reminding me of assumptions I hadn't questioned, particularly in Asian Christian higher

education. Those moments challenged me to reflect more deeply on my own perspectives and the limits of my own US-washed understanding.

Personally, he was someone who always took an interest in my stepdaughter, who he knew spoke fluent Indonesian, having spent a few years in Indonesia as a child and later as a Fulbright fellow. Despite never having met her, he would often ask me about her and her whereabouts.

One memory that stands out for me is when I challenged the use of the term "junior faculty" during a United Board meeting. I explained that while it's common in higher education circles, it can be dismissive, particularly for senior women faculty who hold lower ranks due to institutional structures, and thus, many feminist scholars and their allies in progressive higher education contexts in the US intentionally avoid it. Budi disagreed initially, but after we continued the conversation during the break, he fully embraced my perspective. From that moment on, we could talk openly about many issues. During the last two study tours, I had the privilege of sitting with Budi and his beloved spouse at many meal tables, and I learned so much about their lives, particularly their experiences in the Netherlands, where Budi did his doctoral work, and their children's experiences there.

I am so deeply sorry for this untimely loss and am grieving alongside his family. My thoughts and prayers are with them during this difficult time.

**Ha Nguyen Duy Mong:**

I was deeply shocked by the heartbreaking news. I myself was really impressed by Budi's warm welcome in the last two study trips, his commitment and active contributions to nearly all the United Board Meetings. I could learn a lot from him and always remember his smiling face, friendly conversation. I'll keep praying for him and his family.

**Fr. Dennis Holtschneider:**

I just woke to the terrible news. This is a devastating loss to all of us who were so lucky to have him as part of our lives. In my short time on this board I watched wisdom at work. He would always wait to speak, listen intently, and then ask a clarifying question, offer a reframing that showed us a better path, or suggest a fresh way to bring our highest ideals to bear. It was a wisdom born of experience but always, always given with kindness.

Such a good man. May he be well rewarded for his generous life. And may those who loved him be comforted.

**Huang Po Ho:**

It is indeed very sad news to learn of Budi's passing. We met at an ACUCA meeting and later reconnected at our Board study trip last year. He was so kind and welcoming, and warmly invited me to visit Indonesia. Toward the end of last year, I hoped to meet him for a cup of coffee when I had the opportunity to travel to Salatiga for the APTU Senate meeting. I thought it would be a meaningful chance to see each other again in his beloved country. Regretfully, our communications did not come together in time, and I missed the last opportunity to see him in person.

He will be greatly missed. My prayers and heartfelt condolences are with his family, and with his colleagues at the university during this time of loss.

**Jeffery Kuan:**

I am in shock and deep sadness to hear about Budi's sudden passing.

When I joined the Board, I began to connect with Budi very quickly. Both of us are of Chinese descent, he in Indonesia and I in Malaysia. We talked often about our Chinese heritage in the context of the rich Indonesian/Malaysian culture. One of our best moments together was eating durian in Chiang Mai. I will miss him greatly.

I would like to extend my condolences to his wife and the rest of his family.

**Shiranee Mills:**

So deeply shocked and saddened to hear of Budi's sudden passing.

Budi's cheerful, friendly nature was something that I valued. His positive contribution to the discussions during United Board meetings is proof of his deep commitment to United Board's ministry.

Budi, it was great knowing you and we will miss you dearly.

**Sheila Pineres:**

I am also deeply saddened and shocked to hear the news of Budi's passing.

Although I have only recently joined the board, I truly enjoyed my conversations with Budi. He was incredibly welcoming and kind, making a wonderful impression from the start.

My heartfelt condolences and prayers go out to his family and to all who are grieving this significant loss.

**Shailesh Shah:**

Bina and I are shocked and deeply saddened by this news.

I've only known Budi for the last three years or so, but I'm grateful we had the chance to meet in person in Yogyakarta and then again in Thailand. He was a man of few words, but I always admired his sharp intellect and his sense of humor. Both had a way of getting to what was essential and focusing us on what actually mattered.

I will miss his perspective, especially his passion for climate issues in the Indo-Pacific and his determination to help our scholars become more self-reliant in their fundraising. He cared deeply about that work.

Please convey our sincere condolences to Budi's wife and family.

**Joe Zolner:**

Like all my colleagues, I am shocked and very saddened by this news.

Budi and I worked closely together as members of the Task Force on Board Effectiveness. He was a wonderfully collaborative colleague, made many insightful and helpful contributions, and was always fully engaged with our work despite the need to sometimes arrange what were, for him, some challenging "off hour" meeting times. His clear professional talents aside, what always most struck me was Budi's palpable spirit of good cheer and fellowship. He was *always* kind, caring, thoughtful, and open to dialogue, exchange, and learning. He was such a constant source of positivity and support — a true joy to work with!

Budi and all his loved ones will hold a prominent place in my prayers in the days ahead. I have no doubt that heaven became a bit more crowded yesterday!

With celebration for a life well lived and condolences to the many who now mourn his passing.

*Staff Members*

**Pareena Gupta Lawrence:**

What stands out for me is Budi's warmth, humility, gentle humor, and enduring wisdom. He was deeply dedicated to the work of the United Board; whenever we needed him for a task force or committee, he was there—ready to serve and to lead, regardless of his schedule or the time zone. As a quiet, gentle, and resolute leader, he had a remarkable way of bringing out the best in each of us. I count it a profound privilege that our paths crossed, even though our time together was far too short.

**Jane Chan:**

I am deeply saddened by the passing of Prof. Budi. Like many, I wish this news were not true. Prof. Budi's contributions to the Program Committee and to education in Asia were invaluable, and his kindness will always be remembered.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and with all of us grieving this tremendous loss. May he rest in peace, and may God comfort those suffering from this loss.

**Bo Bo Lwin:**

I am deeply saddened by the news and can hardly believe it. I had the opportunity to have a nice conversation with him during our strategic planning meeting in Bangkok. I looked forward to further discussion, as we shared similar backgrounds and interests. We recently enjoyed reading about his charming lifestyle in *Horizons* (December 2025), and now he has suddenly passed away. I am truly sorry to lose such a wonderful trustee.

**Louisa So:**

I am very saddened by this sad news. Budi has been a long-time friend of the United Board, and I still remember meeting him for the first time in AULP 2010 and his contributions in the United Board environment initiative before he joined us as a trustee. Just last month he mentioned his plans to visit Hong Kong at the end of this month and had asked me for hotel recommendations. It is hard to believe he is no longer with us.

I am heartbroken by this loss, and my thoughts are with his wife and family during this difficult time. I hope she finds strength and comfort in the days ahead.

**Rachel Zhang:**

As a staff member, I had the privilege of working closely with Budi on the Strategic Planning Steering Task Force, where I saw firsthand his thoughtful leadership, deep

commitment, and wonderful sense of humour. Even in serious discussions, Budi had a way of lightening the room while keeping us focused on what mattered most. I also cherish the fond memory of sitting with Budi and his wife during Board dinners, chatting about families, travels in China, and gardening.

Looking at the group photo in the strategic plan brochure, it still feels unreal that Budi has left us so suddenly. My heart goes out to his family and all who loved him. I will remember him not only as a respected trustee, but as a kind, humble, and deeply caring person who enriched the lives of those around him.