

A Collection of Tributes or Memory Pieces for Professor An Yin by IPACES Members

This document includes memorial pieces written by International Professionals for the Advancement of Chinese Earth Sciences (IPACES) members after Professor An Yin's sudden death on July 12th 2023. Most of them are communicated via email or wechat. Professor Yin was one of the founding members of IPACES in 1999 and played an instrumental role in promoting research and education of Earth Sciences in China and building international collaborations.

Last updated by Zhigang Peng, Lijun Liu and Beizhan Yan (IPACES council members), 09/01/2023

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Additional Documents and Links:

1. UCLA memorial site for An Yin (<https://anyinmemorial.com/>)
2. “In Memoriam: Distinguished Professor An Yin” By Dr. Mark Harrison, Univ. California, Los Angeles (<https://epss.ucla.edu/news/in-memoriam-professor-an-yin/>)
3. 深切缅怀杰出华裔教授尹安 -凤凰卫视美洲新闻 (Link to the News Page on Chinese Times: <http://www.chinesetimes.info/static/content/SP/FHSP/2023-08-15/1142069610942967808.html>)

Subject: Fw: Very sad news: Professor An Yin

Dear all:

We are saddened at the loss of Prof. An Yin, founding member and former IPACES chair, who passed away unexpectedly on the afternoon of July 12, 2023 PDT.



Dr. Yin was born in 1959 in Harbin, China. He obtained his B.S. from Peking University in 1982 and Ph.D. at the University of Southern California in 1988 with Dr. Gregory Davis. He had been working at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) as a Professor in Geology since then. Dr. Yin was an internationally renowned expert in Tectonics and Geology. His seminal work includes the tectonic evolution of the Himalayas and Tibetan plateau and mechanics of low-angle normal and thrust faults in the North American Cordillera. He is also interested in planetary tectonics, slow earthquakes, and tectonic geomorphology. He published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers with an H-index of 86.

Dr. Yin had received many awards, including the Donath Medal from the Geological Society of America (GSA) in 1994, fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2013, and the Penrose Medal from the GSA in 2022. Yin was the Editor-in-Chief for Tectonophysics and Earth and Planetary Science Letters. He had mentored numerous outstanding students that were successful in academia, government agencies, and private industries. Additional information about his achievement can be found at the following Wikipedia website
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/An_Yin and his Research Website <https://faculty.epss.ucla.edu/~yin/>

Dr. Yin served as the Vice Chair of IPACES in 1999 and was the chair of IPACES in 2000. He attended the IPACES annual meetings many times, from the earlier in-person meetings to the virtual meetings in 2021-2022 during the COVID-19 pandemic. At UCLA, He hosted many visiting scientists from China. He also contributed significantly to IPACES mission by promoting Earth Sciences research and education in China, and cooperation between earth scientists in China and elsewhere around the world. He will be deeply missed by the IPACES community!

IPACES Council members: Zhigang Peng, Lijun Liu, and Benzhan Yan

In memory of An Yin

**Professor Youxue ZHANG, James R O'Neil Collegiate Professor of Geological Sciences,
Professor, University of Michigan**
youxue@umich.edu, Last updated 08/04/2023

Professor An Yin of UCLA suddenly passed away in the field on July 12, 2023. The sad news was so shocking to me, leaving me still in disbelief to this day.

An and I both graduated from the Geology Department of Peking University, and he was junior by half year in school. We then both came to the US for graduate study. In graduate school in the US, An advanced so quickly and became a tenure-track assistant professor in 1988 when I was still working on my PhD degree. I remember him as the first Chinese student after cultural revolution getting a tenure-track position in the US. Since then, he has been my role model. His contributions have elucidated the tectonics of Tibetan Plateau. He also solved many tectonic problems in Asia. Furthermore, He ventured into planetary tectonics and proposed innovative and provocative models for Mars tectonics. Even though he had already received many awards, including the Donath Medal in 1994 and especially the prestigious Penrose Medal in 2022, I was still anticipating him receiving many more recognitions. It is so sad that he left us at the peak of his academic career, leaving behind many unfinished endeavors and causing infinite grief to his family and friends.

I have known An for decades, but I cannot recall our first meeting. Around the end of 1989 or early 1990, I drove from Caltech to UCLA to interview for a tenure-track position in An's Dept. He warmly hosted me and we talked about research. This was the first time that I was impressed by the width of his knowledge, because I wasn't very familiar with his research but he asked excellent questions about my research. At the end of the interview, he and several other professors accompanied me to the parking lot but I couldn't find my car for a long time. It was so embarrassing. Eventually, I didn't get the position, and hence lost the opportunity to work in the same Dept as An.

After I became an assistant professor at the University of Michigan in 1991, we discovered many common interests, especially our shared desire to advance Chinese Earth science research to the forefront of the world. In 1999, we co-founded iPaces, and participated and organized many academic activities in Chinese. An has a booming voice, and is passionate and persuasive. He is a true warrior and a natural leader. He was straightforward, unafraid of getting into controversies. During an academic meeting at Nanjing University in 2000, when some scholars there challenged plate tectonics, some of us responded politely with specific counter arguments. However, An just directly and bluntly stated that the challengers were outdated, winning applause from students. After the meeting, he and I edited a book together. The collaboration was enjoyable, ensuing both high quality and timely publication.

Most of my interactions with An were during academic conferences. Although our fields of expertise were different, An still help me scientifically a lot. During conferences, when I discussed my ideas with An, he would sometimes immediately point out the flaws in my approach. When he thought the work was good, he would generously praise it.

In the last couple of years, our communications touched upon the "China Initiative" and the difficult situation of Chinese professors in the US. To my surprise, An was also affected and investigated by his university. He felt it was like Cultural Revolution in China in 1960's and

1970's. However, An was confident of his innocence, and fearlessly defended himself against the investigation. Fortunately, UCLA quickly realized its mistake, and not only apologized to An, but also declared its intolerance for unfair treatment of Chinese professors. We didn't meet during the COVID-19 pandemic, but hoped to have a good chat when we met next. Unfortunately, that next meeting will never come.

Prof. An Yin will always be missed and remembered.

悼念尹安教授 张有学

youxue@umich.edu. Last updated 07/15/2023

加州大学洛杉矶分校的尹安教授于 2023 年 7 月 12 日在野外突然去世。噩耗传来，无比震惊，悲哀，至今还难以置信。

尹安是世界著名地质学家。是全球研究青藏高原的领军人物，也解决了许多亚洲大地构造问题，还对火星研究有创造性的见解。尹安在地质学的贡献获得学界广泛承认与欣赏，包括 1994 年获得美国地质学会的年青学者奖(Donath Medal)，尤其是 2022 年获得美国地质学会最高奖(Penrose Medal)。

尹安是北京大学地质系 78 级的同学，比我年轻半级，是北大杰出校友。我记忆中他是改开以来出国留学生第一位(于 1988)在美国地质领域成为 tenure-track 教授的华人，一直是我的楷模。由于他在学术上的巨大贡献，虽然他已经获得了很多大奖，但我还在期待看到尹安拿到更多大奖。想不到他在学术高峰期英年早逝，留下了多少未竟的事业，也引起亲友们无限悲哀。

我与尹安相识几十年，但不记得最初是如何相识的。我于 1989 年底或 1990 年初曾开车从加州理工学院去尹安所在的系面试 tenure-track 位置，得到他的招待，也与他聊了我的科研。那是我第一次感觉到他学识渊博，因为我不是很懂他的科研，而他却能对我的科研提出很好的问题。让我特别不好意思的是，面试结束他们几位教授送我离开时，我在停车场找不到我的车(那时我刚学会开车)。后来我没拿到这个位置，失去了与尹安在同一个系工作的机会。

我 1991 到了密西根大学当助理教授后，我们发现很多志同道合点，尤其是希望推动中国的地球科学研究走向世界前沿。我们一起酝酿并在 1999 年创立了 iPaces，参与并组织了

很多中文学术活动。尹安声洪嗓大，热情奔放，是真的勇士，有领袖气质。他一贯直来直去，不怕争论，不怕得罪人，不怕陷入漩涡。记得我们2000年在南京大学举办学术活动时，有南大学者质疑板块构造。我们很多人都比较委婉地从具体学术角度反驳质疑，但尹安则直接不客气地说质疑者落伍了，赢来学生一片掌声。

我与尹安的交流主要在学术会议期间。虽然我们的学术领域不同，在学术上我还是得到了尹安的帮助。在会议期间与尹安讨论我的想法，他有时会敏锐地指出方向不对。当尹安觉得工作好时，他也会毫不吝啬地夸赞，而且他很会夸，听着没觉得不好意思。因此我非常欣赏与他学术交流。

近年来我们交流谈到了“China Initiative”与华人教授在美国的处境。尹安竟然也受到了波及，被其大学调查。尹安感觉到像是中国文革。但尹安当然问心无愧，不畏不惧，与大学据理力争。可喜的是，后来大学终于认识错误，不仅向尹安教授道歉，而且还声明不容忍对华人教授的歧视。新冠疫情期间没见过面。说好等到下次见面再畅聊。但可惜再也等不到了。

痛失知音好友，谨以此文缅怀尹安。

By Shijie ZHONG, Professor Department of Physics, University of Colorado at Boulder
shijie.zhong@colorado.edu. Last updated 08/03/2023

On Christmas Day of 2009, An emailed me a 100+ pages manuscript on his new idea of a plate tectonic origin for Tharsis Rise on Mars. Earlier that year, I published a paper on a unified one-plume model for the origin of both the Crustal Dichotomy and Tharsis Rise. An asked me to comment on his paper with a different view on Tharsis. I joked how An may have just ruined my holiday break with his major paper. Well, as I started reading it, I really enjoyed his paper. I was deeply impressed with his extensive literature review on the topic. His criticism on tectonic interpretation of the Tharsis region was refreshing, although I had to admit that some of his discussions were a bit beyond my rudimentary understanding of Martian tectonics.

The winter break ended quickly and I started to get busy with my teaching before I received another email from An at the end of January — An asked for my comments! I organized my thoughts and sent him a long email with positive and negative comments. We exchanged a few more emails and ended with a long phone call to sort out several lines of arguments. An was brilliant in understanding my geodynamic and geophysical arguments and in his attempt to counter them. In our conversation, as I recalled, he also explained why he became interested in Mars and planetary sciences in general. He said his son did a science project on Mars which got him interested in Mars. He also said that he found increasingly more difficult to find places on the Earth to study tectonics. This is because he would always let his former mentees to independently continue their work in regions where they started the projects with him. As we all know, it is often difficult for a junior scientist to start a completely new project at a new location, and on the other hand, it is also crucial for her/him to demonstrate independence from former advisor. Therefore, what An did in yielding to his former mentees was very unselfish and supportive of junior scientists. It is not surprising that An was such a beloved and successful mentor.

I have had several other interesting interactions with An over the years, all through emails or at conferences on scientific issues. The last time we communicated was at an online Zoom seminar in the summer of 2022 in which An presented his work on how ice, as an agent, may have shaped the Martian surface. The idea and presentation were outstanding. After his presentation, An stayed on the Zoom with quite some young planetary enthusiasts to talk about Mars and the Moon, with me doing a bit sidekick. It was a lot of fun. Although my knowledge on planetary sciences is rather limited, it is evident to me that An had been seriously and passionately engaged in the pursuit of studies of Martian geology and tectonics (and recently on Pluto/Charon and Enceladus), as he did for all the other scientific pursuits. With his creativity and deep knowledge on tectonics and geology, his work shed new light on planetary tectonics and geology. When An shifted his attention from the Earth to Mars because of his unselfishness and generosity to his former mentees, it was the Earth's loss and Mars' gain. Now with his untimely passing, An may have just wandered further up there. Of course, An has never really left the Earth, and his work and his smile will be always with us.

By Yusheng ZHAO, Chair Professor, Department of Physics, Southern University of Science and Technology
zhaoyz@sustech.edu.cn, Last updated on 07/27/2023

尹安同学的突然去世很是让人难以接受，不可置信，悲从中来。他出国前我们在北大就有过短暂的接触，我八五年到伯克利访问跑野外采岩石样品，与他们 USC 团队会合一起，住在 Colorado 河边的 motel 中一个多星期，众人每天在 Sirra Nevada 山脉中做地质考察。他 USC 的老板对他的地质专业水平称赞有加。话说他老板每天带队爬山，回到营地还主刀大厨（我的爬山能力及西红柿炒鸡蛋水平被表彰被喜爱[愉快]），他老板勤快得很，甚至餐后收拾桌子碗筷并洗涮，照顾大家至 Amazing！尹安深得王仁先生地球动力学的真传，大段的公式推导应用到地层形变描述，把美国的地质教授们整得懵圈叹赞。尹安毕业后很快就第一时间获得 UCLA 的教职，一路成就卓著，获奖频频，地学届中国学生学者中很拔份的，在国际间也声名远播！我九十年代初在 Caltech 博后期间与一众北大同学有过几次不多的 party，尹安大嗓门声音洪亮，卡拉 OK 飙歌从来不用麦克风，照样盖了帽了。这多年来，我与尹安的专业方向渐行渐远，难得的几次去参加 AGU，他隔着展板隔着大街都兴奋的跑过来打招呼寒暄问候，热情健谈 意气风发。斯人已逝，音容宛在。追思同学少年，各位自勉互勉保重身体，精气神扎起！

赵予生 ZHAO, Yushen

By Huawei ZHOU, Sheriff College Professor in Geophysics, Dept of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, University of Houston
via IPACES wechat group, Last updated 07/18/2023

这几年走了好几位良师益友，但尹安的离世太过令人无法置信、真是天嫉英才！我第一次见到尹安在 1984 年前后，在一次南加州华人地学从业者聚会上，好像是 USC 的邓大量教授介绍我参加的。对我来说那是个充满激情的奋斗年代，尹安是其中的佼佼者。他是个充满热情的实干家。可能因为我上大学前在地质队填图，每次相遇我们总聊起野外经历、故事多多。

他对地学的追求是永恒的，出野外探索地球是他毕生的爱好。多年前我就知道他有严重的头痛毛病，但他还是坚持每年出野外。

我在休斯顿大学地球与大气科学系有两位同事是尹老师弟子，都致力于青藏高原及周边的构造地质研究。约 6 年前我请尹安参加系级十年学术评审，Kevin Burke 和 John Suppe 都称尹为构造地学奇才。记得尹建议我们改名为地球能源系；尽管最后没有被我的同事们接受，他的奇思妙想可见一斑。

我印象里的尹安总是面带笑容，充满乐观进取精气神。他永远是我心中的榜样、良师益友！

尹兄弟走好！
华伟拜首

By Xiaohong FENG, Frederick Hall Professor of Mineralogy and Geology, Department of Earth Sciences, Dartmouth College
Xiaohong.Feng@dartmouth.edu, Last updated 07/17/2023

我是从法国里昂到巴黎的时候听到尹安去世的消息。今天被卡在了都柏林，得以安静下来 Process 这个噩耗。到现在还难以接受，总觉得这个岁数又有人在身边，怎么就不能救过来？尹安的学术成就和对 IPACES 的贡献，大家都说了很多。我想我只在这里分享对尹安的点滴记忆。

我和尹安认识有 40 年了。我们不是一个专业，从未合作过，见面也不多，但我总认为我们是朋友。

记忆一

好像最早的记忆是在尹安申请自费留学的时候。尹安和我说起他申请出国遇到的种种刁难，包括和派出所等官方打交道。尹安跟我形容那些办事人员效率低，能力差。说那些人写的字就比我左脚写得好一点，还不如我右脚呢。当时觉得他的笑话很 creative，记忆至今。

记忆二

我在加州时，尹安带我和几个朋友出野外，看看加州的地质构造。野外观察好像在北大一点都没有入门。尹安似乎也有同感。他到美国以后如鱼得水，感觉一下开了窍，之后无师自通。尹安带我们看了几处典型的地质构造，包括 San Andreas fault 以及周边有关的断层。非常受益。记得走到一个断层露头，尹安指着断层说，你看一条几百公里的断层，一个手指就能点到断层面。是不是很神奇？可不是吗！神奇而且受教。在北大地质实习的时候，每每看到断层都觉得不得要领。

记忆三

一次和加州的几个朋友一起在我家聚会。晚饭尹安和我一起出去买 pizza。一出门，他就往反方向走，我说，哎，是那边。他说，哦，在屋里你指的是这边。惭愧呀... 我一点方向感都没有，怎么就学了地质？人家尹安才是一 natural。

尹安，你一路走好！到了那边别忘了昔日的朋友！

夏红, 写于都柏林, Clayton Hotel at Dublin Airport

尹安教授:我的良师益友 宋晓东 2023.7.16 于北京大学燕园

By Xiaodong SONG, Chair Professor, SCHOOL OF EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES,
PEKING UNIVERSITY • Peking University,
xdsong@pku.edu.cn, last updated 07/16/2023

北京时间 7.13 上午刚听到消息时，我不敢相信，后来消息不断传来，我才不得不相信，但仍然真的不愿相信，尹安教授就这样突然地离开了我们。他那么年轻，那么有活力，那么充满爱与创造力。他还在他事业的巅峰期，自然界有那么多美丽的东西等着他为人类展示。

我认识尹安是通过 IPACES 组织。那个时候，中国的留学生要在美国大学找到教职并不容易。尹安是地质学(很可能是整个地学界)领域中的第一位，周华伟是地球物理学领域中的第一位。1999 年，在张有学和尹安的倡议下，IPACES 由十几位海外教授发起成立，希望促进地球科学领域华人的国际合作、研究和教育。我第一次见到尹安教授是在 2000 年在南京大学举办的第一届 IPACES 年会上。自那以后，我参加了他和许多其他杰出的同事参与 IPACES 相关活动，并结识了他们。



2000 年夏，于南京大学第一届 IPACES 会议。照片中有尹安(一排左三)和其他 IPACES 成员，马宗晋，及陈骏和其他南大老师们。

In the summer of 2000 at the first IPACES workshop held at Nanjing University, China. An Yin was the third from the left in the front row.

自那时起，我有幸在许多场合当面地跟尹安学习和讨论地质学(尤其是关于青藏)，对电子邮件、电话和微信他也总是及时回应。他的喜马拉雅-青藏高原造山带的综述文章(Annual Review, 2000)是地球科学领域中引用最多的论文之一(超过 6000 次)，可以说是关于青藏高原造山带的圣经。一次与他谈到这篇文章，他幽默地说它像“懒婆娘的裹脚，又长又臭”。他写论文就像给自己写笔记，或把笔记整理成论文，几乎随手就来，可谓是学术届中出口成章，“七步成诗”了。

在另一篇同样发表于 2000 年 JGR 的论文中(他是唯一作者)，他巧妙地使用一个简单的力学模型，推断出青藏高原地幔岩石圈存在撕裂，从而造成高原的大间距裂谷系统。当后来

我们从地震图像中看到岩石圈撕裂结构时，我为他的观察力和想象力所折服。2008-2009年，尹安邀请我参加了一项关于蒙古造山带的美国国家科学基金会大陆动力学多学科交叉的项目申请。他能很好地结合对地质学深刻的洞察力和构建物理假说的能力，这非常吸引我。能够与他密切合作是我极大的荣幸。虽然这项申请没有成功，但这并不影响他对科学的热情。他继续前进。事实上，他的许多发现都是在没有资助的情况下完成的。

2019年夏，我曾与尹安相见，当时我已经决定全职回国到北大工作，可谁知这是我们最后一次见面？我们讨论了结合地球物理学和地质学撰写一篇关于青藏高原的综述，但由于疫情和时间，后来没有及时跟进。这事未能完成将是我永远的遗憾。



2019年夏，尹安和我于北京五道口。
In the summer of 2019, An Yin and me in Beijing.

尹安的魅力如此之大，以至于你第一次见到他就会立刻爱上他。他说话快，声音洪亮，幽默、俏皮、充满想法。因此，他成为一位伟大的导师也就不足为奇了。2009年，他在UIUC我们系里给了个报告，期间住在我家。他立即成为了我儿子的好伙伴，我儿子对他装傻的挑逗感到由衷的兴奋。回去后，他发了一封电子邮件：“向两个孩子问好。他们真的很可爱，当你和你的妻子有时间时，带他们来洛杉矶。”

尹安教授倒在了他的战场上，全身心地战斗到了生命的最后一刻：在他一生所挚爱的地质研究和教学的旅行之中，与成千上万受益于他的年轻学生中的成员在一起。如此壮烈！如此感人！尹安兄，您安息吧！

Professor Yin An: My Mentor and Friend Xiaodong Song July 16 at Peking University

When I first heard the news in the morning of July 13th Beijing time, I couldn't believe it. As more and more news came in, I had no choice but to accept the truth, but I still truly didn't want to believe it. Professor Yin An had suddenly left us. He was so young, so energetic, so full of love and creativity. He was at the peak of his career, and there were so many beautiful things in nature waiting for him to reveal to humanity.

I got to know Prof. An Yin through the IPACES organization. A faculty position in the U.S. is highly competitive, especially for Chinese graduates in the early days (in the 1980-90s).

An Yin was the first Chinese student in geology (and perhaps in all fields of earth sciences) to secure a tenure-track faculty job, while Huawei Zhou was the first in geophysics. In 1999, initiated by Youxue Zhang and An Yin, IPACES was founded by a small group of overseas Chinese faculty, with the aim of promoting Chinese earth-science international collaboration, research, and education. I first met Prof. An Yin at the inaugural IPACES annual meeting held at Nanjing University in 2000. Since then, I have attended and gotten to know him and many other distinguished colleagues at IPACES-related events.

Since then, I have had the privilege of learning and discussing geology (especially regarding the Tibetan Plateau) with An in person on many occasions, and he was always responsive to emails, phone calls, and WeChat. His review article on the Himalayan-Tibetan orogeny (Annual Review, 2000) is one of the most highly cited papers in earth sciences (with over 6000 citations), which may be regarded as the bible of the Tibetan Plateau orogeny. In our chat, he humorously referred to it as a "long and stinky foot-binding cloth" (a phrase used by Chairman Mao for empty and meaningless articles). The truth is he was incredibly prolific. He wrote the review paper as if it was notes for himself. Similarly, he could turn notes into well-structured articles at ease.

In another paper, also published in 2000 (JGR with him as a sole author), he brilliantly used a simple mechanical model to infer that the mantle lithosphere must have been torn to create the rift system in Tibetan Plateau. When we later found the tearing structure from seismic images, I couldn't help but deeply impressed by his exceptional abilities in observation and imagination. In 2008-2009, An invited me to participate a multi-disciplinary proposal for the NSF continental dynamics program on Mongolia orogeny. His combination of profound geological insights and ability to generate physical hypotheses captivated me and it was a great honor to have the opportunity to work closely with him. Although the proposal was not successful, it did not dampen his enthusiasm for science. He kept moving on. In fact, many of his discoveries were accomplished without external funding support.

In the summer of 2019, I met with An in Beijing. At that time, I had already decided to relocate to China (Peking University). Little did I know that it would be our last meeting. We discussed the idea of writing a review on the Tibetan Plateau, combining both geophysics and geology. However, due to the pandemic and time constraints, we did not follow it through. The fact that this project was not completed will be a lifelong regret for me.

An possessed such charisma that one would instantly love him upon the first meeting. He spoke fast, talked loudly, and was humorous, playful, and full of ideas. Thus, it is no surprise that he was an exceptional mentor. In 2009, during the department seminar at UIUC, he stayed at my house. He immediately became a good friend to my son, who was genuinely thrilled by his tricks. After returning, he sent an email: "Say hi to the two kids. They are really adorable and take them to LA when you and your wife have the time."

Professor An Yin fell on his battlefield, having fought his heart out until the final minute of life -- on his beloved geology field trip, surrounded by the newest members among the thousands of students who benefited from his instruction. How heroic! How touching! Bro An, rest in peace!

忆尹安

By Huiming BAO, Professor and Director, International Center for Isotope Effects Research, Nanjing University

bao@lsu.edu, last updated 07/16/2023

鲍惠铭，2023-07-15 惊闻尹安教授前几天突然去世，我的第一反应是，“天”是个小人，竟如此嫉妒英才！再回头看看

还在法国里昂 Goldschmidt 会场奔波的自己，我想还是不要做这个世界的英才了吧。

我与尹安学长有过 4-5 次的当面接触，每次都意犹未尽。

初次是在 200X 年 AGU 的一次 IPACES 聚餐上。那是旧金山唐人街的一家中餐馆的二楼包间。记得我们有两桌，尹安学长在另外一桌上。他的无废话、直接、洪亮、又风趣的交谈让我在自己的饭桌上心不在焉。心想，这个人我得认识认识。于是，我明白了“一见如故”是有不同级别的。与尹安学长的“一见如故”比先前曾以为有过的类似感受高出好几个数量级。散席时，我们俩都调侃劝戒各自 chill(冷静)一下，避免“一见钟情”的升级。

以后在中国的几个小型学术场合我也有幸与尹安学长相聚。他对中国地学尽心尽力的扶持，对中国学术界的爱恨交加很少有人出其右。我印象最深的是他在某天的一个会议上私下多次评论说“这是形式主义”，“又是形式主义”。我说，中文现在已经可以用一个字来替代这四个字了：“装”！中国有很多“装”成科学家的人，他们对做科研本身并不真正感兴趣。

我原在美国 LSU 地质系在过去的 20 多年招过 4-5 次构造地质的助理教授。早期几乎都把 offer 给了尹安学长的学生，后期给尹安学长学生的学生。这也是我与尹安一直存在的交集。



我们这些学人都希望在年轻的时候闯荡江湖，立下传奇。但我也渴望退出“江湖”后过上一段“对一张琴，一壶茶(酒)，一溪云”的日子。的日子里如果尚有故友，知己的来访叙旧，人生就完美了。如今，想到今生已不可能与学长再续当年的“一见钟情”，我不禁潸然泪下。

某个平行世界里，学长与我倚栏眺望着远处的山山水水，笑叹我们在这个本无意义又无常的宇宙里活得认真、不愧、率性、有滋有味。

Photo credit: Huiming Bao

**By Shaocheng JI, Professor, Department of Civil, Geological and Mining Engineering,
Polytechnique de Montréal**

shaocheng.ji@polymtl.ca, Last updated 07/16/2023

2023年7月12日晚上（美国东部时间）收了国内一位院士的微信“惊悉尹安在野外工作中因高血压而心梗去世，太可惜了，才64岁。”

当时我不相信这消息是真的，我印象中的尹安身体特好，他是那种“热情高、干劲大”（那时还没有“作风优良，能打胜仗”的话）的人，怎么能说走就走了呢。于是，我去一个尹安也在里面的 Geodynamics 群看看，没有人谈到他，我心里暗自希望说他去世的消息应该不是真的，否则令人难以接受。但估计也是事出有因，或许他在野外工作中身体出了状况，目前正在医院治疗。我在群里写到“尹安教授在群里，大家有他消息吗？希望他一切安好！”。可是，几分钟之后，我的希望就被北大张波教授“沉痛悼念尹安老师”的话击破。

我与尹安相识于 1991 底的旧金山 AGU 会议，大陆背景的人相约去唐人街一家中餐馆吃饭。他和我当时是在北美有教职的人，我们两人主动分担了酒费。席间大家聊到在北美无人区野外地质工作的艰苦，相比西人，我们华人体力似乎不支（我们大陆那代人成长发育过程中喝牛奶、吃牛肉很少），一些人转而去作实验和理论模拟工作。尹安用自己作为例子对此予“驳斥”，他说与他比老外更能跑野外呢。我仔细打量他的身材，非常健壮，让我肃然起敬，因为不久前加拿大萨斯喀彻温北部无人区的野外考察，让我深感体力不足。

尹安，现在已经离开地球，去了更为艰苦的火星，研究那里的板块构造。

最后，也请读信的各位保重身体。

嵇少丞

Memories of An Yin

By Zhengkang SHEN, Research Geophysicist, University of California, Los Angeles

zshen@ucla.edu, last updated 08/24/2023

I've had the privilege to know An for the past four decades, since we both graduated from the same university (albeit from different departments) and went to the US for graduate study in 1983. However, it wasn't until the last two and a half decades that I truly came to know him. In the mid-1990s, while he was a professor and I was a research scientist at UCLA, he invited me to collaborate on an NSF proposal studying tectonic deformation of the Altyn Tagh fault, situated at the northern boundary of the Tibetan plateau. This marked the beginning of our friendship and collaboration, which lasted until the day of his fatal departure.

During our initial project discussions, I confessed to An that I knew little about Tibetan tectonics. He responded, "No worries, just count on me. I'm the living encyclopedia for that!" Indeed, his extensive knowledge became invaluable, and his personal lectures opened the door of Tibetan tectonics for me. Besides, his comprehensive collection of books and papers, many acquired from Chinese academic bookstores, proved very useful for me. Some of his meticulously gathered maps (in an era prior to google map!) played a pivotal role in planning and executing our field surveys. Our collaboration turned out to be a perfect match: while my Chinese colleagues and I began using GPS to decipher crustal deformation in China and yielding preliminary findings, An's insights and interpretations helped foster our understanding of related tectonic processes and mechanisms. Our collaboration extended into the 2010s, with one project identifying a fault with a concealed seismic gap in North China. An mastered geological, seismological, and geodetic data to formulate a coherent model, and incorporating our GPS deformation data helped reveal changes in the deformation pattern over an earthquake cycle.

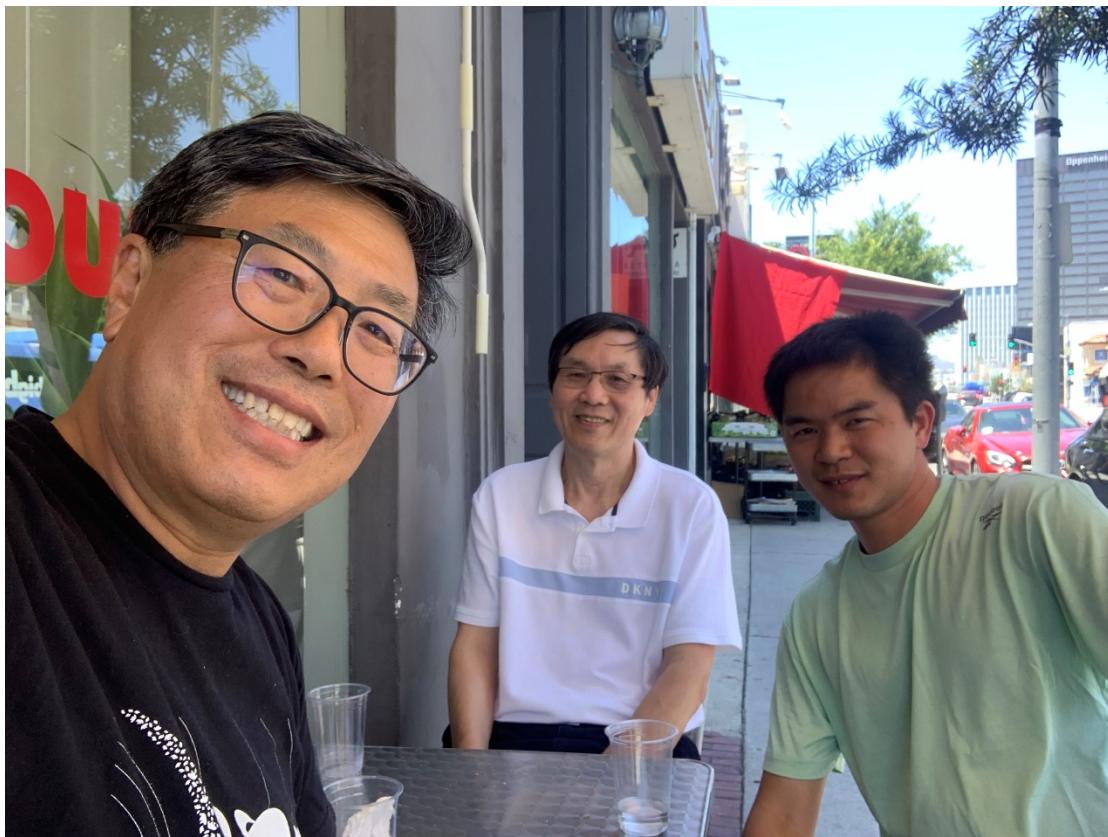
During a discussion about conducting tectonic research in Tibet, I was struck by one of An's remarks: "People often get frustrated due to the difficulty and challenges of fieldwork, but I tell them: all of that also makes it exciting!" This spirit echoed JFK's view about the Apollo mission to the moon: "We do it not because it's easy, but because it's hard!" Beyond scientific discoveries, An embraced challenges and relished in the process. The harsh natural terrain and climate of Tibetan wilderness also offered a chance to appreciate its breathtaking beauty. Navigating bureaucratic hurdles while working in the region honed his social and negotiation skills. An shared an anecdote with me about a field trip he took to Tibet, during which a rental car driver unexpectedly halted the car in the middle of nowhere, demanding a substantial pay raise. An adeptly negotiated with the driver, ensuring the fieldwork proceeded as planned. At the end of the trip he resolved the issue with the driver's company, settling it with adhering to the original contract agreement. It became one of An's cool tales.

For the past two decades, both An and I collaborated extensively with Chinese scientists on research projects involving China, traveling frequently between the US and China. However, during the summer of 2019, at the climax of Trump administration's "China Initiative," An was detained for hours at the airport upon returning from a trip to China. The FBI questioned him about his ties and activities in China. Upon his return to UCLA, he immediately shared his encounter with me. Learning that I had scheduled a trip to China for collaboration work in the following month, he strongly urged me not to go. Witnessing how deeply he was perturbed and considering the unknown risks, I took his advice and canceled the trip. An later reached out to the UCLA chancellor's office to report the occurrence. The school initially did not support him but questioned his activities in China. Undeterred, he wrote an open letter to the chancellor's office, asserting that he had done nothing wrong but dedicated all his works for the benefit of science and education in both countries, which deserved recognition, not investigation. Fortunately, the school quickly recognized their mistake, apologized to him, and declared its

intolerance for unfair treatment of Chinese scholars. Once again, An's courage, persistence, and integrity prevailed.

My bond with An extended to our families as well. Prior to the pandemic we occasionally had parties together, and enjoyed food, conversations, An's anecdotes, jokes, and remarkable photo collections from field trips. Our children found joy in playing video games together. After An's departure I searched for his photos for remembrance, and found one taken by An during Shaozhuo Liu's visit last year. Shaozhuo is a former student of mine, his trip to southern California led him to UCLA for a day, and he hoped to consult An about research issues during his visit. An rearranged his schedule, chauffeuring the three of us to a restaurant in Westwood. Sitting outdoors under the sun of southern California, we chatted freely for hours. An's insightful and unreserved responses, life experiences, and abundant humor will forever resonate in our memories.

An departed this world while leading a summer field trip for students, an activity he always enjoyed to do. He fell while engaging in two things he loved the most: conducting geological field survey in nature and educating students. He truly "fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith." He will always be remembered, for his accomplishments, his compassion for those around him, his resilient and positive spirit for life, and the joyful moments he shared with us. He will always be in my heart.



From left to right: An Yin, Zhengkang Shen, and Shaozhuo Liu. 6/30/2022.

**By Zong-Liang YANG, John A. and Katherine G. Jackson Chair in Earth System Sciences,
Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Jackson School of Geosciences, University of
Texas at Austin, Austin**

liang@jsg.utexas.edu, Last updated 07/15/2023

我对尹安教授去世的消息感到非常震惊和难过[流泪][流泪][流泪]。三天来一直无法平复自己的心情。多年前，尹教授曾访问过德克萨斯大学奥斯汀分校杰克逊地学院，可惜我错过了与他接触的机会，因为我们从事的研究领域不同。然而，学院里的同事们，包括 Mark Cloos、Brian Horton、Elizabeth J Catlos 等等，对尹教授非常尊重，并对他推崇备至。我一直希望有机会能够结识尹教授，但现在巨星已经陨落，我们都深感悲痛。最令人难过的莫过于他的亲人、朋友、学生和同事们，让我们共同节哀顺变。愿尹教授一路走好！[合十][合十][合十]

杨宗良

By Yaoling NIU, Honorary Professor of Marine Geology, Laoshan Laboratory

yaoling.niu@foxmail.com Last updated 07/15/2023

Like others, I am still in deep shock and saddened by An's passing!

I began to enjoy reading An's papers relatively late, in the early ~ 2000's, when I was about to study magmatic and metamorphic rocks associated with the origin and growth of the Greater Tibetan Plateau, but his name as a globally renowned geologist was already familiar to me a decade earlier. In the early January of 1999, I received an email from Zhang Youxue and Yin An inviting me to join a group effort in whatever ways that may help promote China's Earth Science research. I was extremely honored because they two and others had (have) always been my admired scientists with well-established research reputations in the international Earth Science community. They were graduates from Peking University and University of Science and Technology of China with their PhD degrees from top US universities. That small group soon became what is now the IPACES. Because I was in Australia and later in the UK, my academic calendar hardly matched that of the US, so I participated in very few of the IPACES major group activities in China's summer times, but participated in other activities (e.g., "Summer Ocean Science Schools" or workshops, online discussions and some AGU gatherings). My email exchanges on Science and other things with An started then. I first met An in person a few times during my short 2-year tenure at University of Houston.

An's humorous chats with warm spirits and smiling face are always vivid as if he were sitting in front of me when I am writing now! His scientific insights are amazing and his ability to synthesize huge and apparently unrelated data sets into coherent models is astonishing! He is truly intelligent, knowledgeable and capable! He is a scientific giant! His passing is a huge loss for our science, but his scientific contributions will be forever remembered and will continue to influence coming generations!

Following the suggestion by Zheng Yan, perhaps, it would be better if some of An's students can take initiative to organize a joint GSA Special Paper/AGU Special Publication, inviting interested/willing members to contribute (There was one 2015 for Don Anderson, to which I contributed; GSA SP 514 / AGU SP 71)

May An rest in peace! My thoughts are with An's family and all of his friends!

悼尹安老师

By Zhigang PENG, Professor of Geophysics, School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences,
Georgia Institute of Technology
zpeng@gatech.edu, Last updated 07/13/2023

和尹安老师算是差了十几年的南加大校友。当年刚一入校，就听闻尹安老师还未毕业就拿到加大洛杉矶分校教职的“英雄”事迹，一直暗中以尹老师为榜样。后来在 IPACES 组织的几次活动中，逐渐对尹安老师的研究有了进一步的了解。还记得 2013 年在成都开会时，听他讲金沙遗址，古蜀文化和成都平原内部断层活动的关系，顿觉思路新颖，脑洞大开。在新冠期间，尹安老师参与了 2021 和 2022 年的网络 IPACES 年会，分别做了行星地质学和慢地震/深部震颤的报告。后来还一起和加拿大王克林老师讨论过，本想一起开展相关的研究，可惜尹安老师人已不在。2021 年暑假访问洛杉矶期间，和尹安老师细谈了许多话题，包括中美关系，以及如何在新形势下开展国际合作，深感老师对我等后辈的爱护。一直想有机会和尹安老师一起去出野外，却听到他在野外不幸去世的消息。写到此处，不仅潸然泪下😢！愿尹安老师一路走好，在天堂里能继续做自己喜欢的事！[合十][合十][合十]

By Jian LIN, Chair Professor, Department of Ocean Science and Engineering, Southern University of Science and Technology of China
linj@sustech.edu.cn, Last updated 07/13/2023

尹安兄，你暂时走了，但你并没有走远，永远活在我们心中，永远与我们一起！

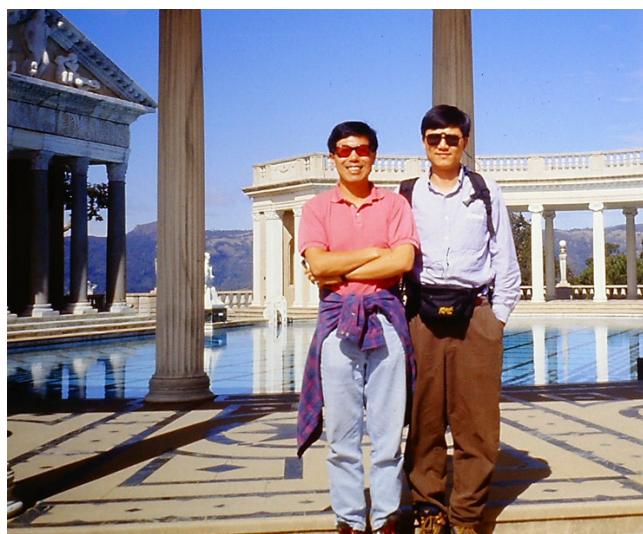
尹安兄，你与我们一起创立了 IPACES，只因为你与我们有同样的理想，看到了同样问题，同样想让这个世界因为我们的存在而不同，Make a difference。你做到了，这个世界因你而不同！

尹安兄，我们一起作构造地质，你作加州拆离断层，我们作大洋海底构造，我们在海底首次发现拆离断层的思想，就是你启发的！

尹安兄，当时去 UCLA 给报告是，就住在你家，傍晚我们一起去看 OJ Simpson 案件的出事地。后来我们一起在国际大洋钻探委员会作委员，一起去了加州的 Hearst Castle。

尹安兄，我们约好了作华北盲断层的研究，约好了作火星裂谷的研究。你放心，我们一定会继续的，一定与你的同事学生一起，实现你的梦想、我们的共同梦想！

你是永远的尹安！
你的朋友，林间



By Zheng-Xiang Li, Professor of Geosciences, School of Earth and Planetary Sciences,
Curtin University, Australia
z.li@exchange.curtin.edu.au, Last updated 07/13/2023

悼尹安——惊悉老同学尹安教授于带学生野外实习归途中猝然仙逝，不胜伤感。四十余年前大学同窗四载，之后就各奔东西，追梦地球秘密。此后若干年偶在 AGU 相遇，聊之同窗情谊。直至 2019 年底几个老同学相聚洛杉矶，把酒言欢。后更有幸跟着老同学在北美野外学习科迪勒拉山脉构造发育史，尹安兄全程亲自驾，白日给大家讲解地质，晚间安排大家食宿，不辞辛苦。野外言谈间方知尹安祖上源自黄县（现龙口市），后迁居辽宁，兄与我因此算是大半个老乡，彼此自然更亲近一层。更难忘尹安兄事前特意叮嘱同僚以加州好酒为我接风。尹安兄地学研究起家于科迪勒拉山脉，在这个名家聚集的地方以及数个其它领域都有世人瞩目的建树。但任何两个地质学家在野外露头上有时都会争得不亦乐乎，我俩也不例外。这样一路跑下来仍意犹未尽，别时不忘相约下次再一起跑野外，甚至找机会合作一把。不想遭遇三年疫情，未等解封后的再聚，贤兄就在他挚爱的野外途中撒手而去。尹安兄一路走好，我们来世再合作！

