

## A Tribute to Jinwoo Choe

Dr. Jinwoo Choe was one of the most brilliant researchers of his generation. He was a consummate scholar, a true academic, and an exceptional intellect. But to all of us who had the privilege to know him, he was so much more.

Jinwoo was my PhD student at Purdue for four years (1995-1998), and a friend ever since. He had an unparalleled zest for life. I can still picture him driving his mustang as a student, and the pleasure he took in describing the most exotic of Korean cuisine. He was such an interesting person, and we always looked forward to his company. He had a passion for arts and culture, and his interests ranged from the mundane pop-culture movies to sublime music and art. During my last visit to Korea, he took me to the most wonderful off-the-beaten-path artistic places in Seoul. He had a major proposal deadline, but still took time off to make my visit memorable, one that I will cherish forever.

He took life in stride and with good humor. I recall an amusing incident when we had Jinwoo and his family over for dinner in my apartment in West Lafayette. We were all in the kitchen, and his son Jihoon, who was then barely a toddler, had walked into our living room and taken a sip out of someone's Grand Marnier glass came coughing into the other room. Jinwoo just looked at him, shook his head, and laughed "just like his father," he said.

Jinwoo pursued perfection in everything he attempted. From the way he solved problems, to the manner in which he conducted his research, Jinwoo was always in a class of his own. I vividly recall the many days and nights writing our papers together, and his enormous enthusiasm and dedication to his work. His PhD dissertation was, without doubt, the best piece of work published in the area of networking research that year, not only from Purdue, but from any university in the country. His research was not only groundbreaking, but also beautiful. Often, the problems he pursued appeared to be insurmountable puzzles, but then he would emerge with such a brilliant solution, that one could not help but wonder whether it was divinely inspired.

Jinwoo had a generosity of spirit that is so rare to find. I never heard him make an unkind remark about anyone. He was patient with all who did not match his intellect, and ready to help out those in need. He was always a gentleman, and saw the best qualities in others. He embodied the adage "teach by example," and it was such a delight to have known him.

Jinwoo's untimely passing is an enormous loss to his young family, his parents, and to us all who knew him. He was a great soul and I miss him deeply, but he will remain in our hearts and minds forever.

*Ness Shroff*