



With Deep Condolence to Prof. Paul F. Barbara of University of Texas at Austin

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Paul passed away on Sunday, 31 October 2010, from complications following cardiac arrest at age of 57. We Japanese chemists have lost one of our best friends, most kind mentors, and strongest supporters. Paul was born in New York, got Ph. D. in Brown University, started his research career in Bell Laboratory with Prof. Louis Brus, became a professor in University in Minnesota, and later moved to Austin. Initially he learned magnetic resonance of radicals and shifted to picosecond laser photolysis study, resulting in his systematic investigation on solvation dynamics and energy/electron transfer processes of molecular systems. Masuhara became a good friend soon which is indeed ascribed to Paul's open and frank attitude. Masuhara thought that Paul was a little bit late comer to ultrafast laser spectroscopy field as already so many scientists (Drs. Porter, Phillips, Hochstrasser, Fleming, Mataga, De Schryver, Yoshihara et al) had worked in the relevant topics. In 1980's Masuhara was trying various extensions of laser chemistry, studying time-resolved reflection spectroscopy, laser ablation dynamics, laser trapping, and so on, on which Paul gave him warm, kind, and positive comments and advices. Masuhara was so happy to see that Paul later shifted to near-field optical microscopy and eventually single molecule spectroscopy.

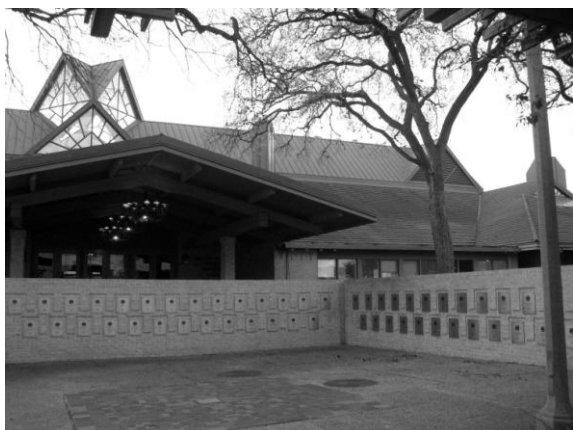


At the Christmas party hosted by Paul and his wife Sharon at their luxurious home, 2009.

He stayed in Osaka as a guest professor, while he visited Japan many times to attend international meetings such as The 8th International Conference on Unconventional Photoactive Systems (1997), JST Symposium in 2001, the 21st international Conference on Photochemistry (2003), and Hamano Life Science Meeting (2007). Also Paul and Masuhara organized the Japan-US information Exchange Seminar on "Photophysics and Photoconversion in Small Domains by Near-Field Scanning Optical Microscopy" in Napa Valley in 1998, which is also an unforgettable memory. Paul has intimate contact with Japanese chemists including Prof. Keisuke Tominaga and accepted many Japanese graduate students (Drs. A. Furube, Chie Hosokawa, Takayuki Uwada, Takuji Adachi et al). Some said when Paul was in a conference in Japan, he had a conversation at every corner. This episode indicates he was very friendly toward Japan. Indeed Paul was highly recognized in Japan and honored by Japanese Photochemistry Association Special Award (2005).



The symbolic tower in the campus of The University of Texas at Austin.



Etter-Harbin Alumni Center in the campus of The University of Texas at Austin.

On Dec. 12th in 2010, a memorial service celebrating the life of Prof. Paul F. Barbara was held at Etter-Harbin Alumni Center in the campus of The University of Texas at Austin, where Furube could join as only one Japanese participant. The total number of participants was about 100-150, including many of former and current his research group members (called Barbarians), university staffs, his colleagues and friends from other universities, and his family. Paul's daughter (Juliet Barbara), started an address to all participants in a quiet atmosphere, appreciating everyone to join, and then introduced a lot of memories with Paul in many places all over the world such as Italy and Japan. Her speech was followed by introduction of Paul's personality and memory as a father, a boss, and a colleague by his son (Janson Haugen), a former postdoc (Dr. Matthew Traub), Prof. A. Bard, Prof. P. Rossky and a staff in the Center for Nano- and Molecular Science and Technology where Paul has devoted his enthusiastic efforts for the establishment. Although most of speech has reminded us that we lost such a great person and many felt tears, some jokes based on pleasant memories also realized us that he was always positive, energetic, and cheerful to everybody around him. Once he started to talk about research and science, it often lasted more than several hours. Always he was full of new ideas, and tried to challenge many kinds of novel experiments, although only a fraction of them was successful. He always cares kindly about others, especially about the youngest students. Even after he obtained a high position, he has never been egoistic and has taken care of others. Such comments explained why everybody loves him.

All Japanese friends wish his soul may rest peacefully, and will remember his great scientific achievements and leadership forever. We cannot forget the words which Mr. Takuji Adachi, the last student of Masuhara lab and the last graduate student of Paul's lab, said before the ceremony, "I learned from Paul not

only chemistry but also philosophy, so I should become a professor in US and transfer Paul's philosophy to next generation". This is indeed our role as a friend of Paul.