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**Tribute to Bach Lien Hua**

It has come as a shock to all of us that Lien is no longer with us. The mind rebels against the fact. Lien is so alive in our minds, her personality so vivid, her intelligence so striking and her smile so sparkling that the thought of all of that disappearing seems a crime against nature itself. Of course, and alas, it is not. It has happened and we must sadly accept the fact. But we can remember.

In particular, we remember her many scientific contributions, whether to ocean turbulence, the dynamics of the mixed layer, and the nature of the equatorial current system--- the list is long but cut much shorter than it ought to have been and we are all the losers for that.

We miss much more than her intelligence. We miss her generosity, her *joie de vivre*, her conversation and her beautiful physical presence. I recall one very special day in the early 90's when Lien was at the University of Hawaii and I found myself there as part of a committee charged with evaluating the University for accreditation. I am a poor and careless traveler and misread the time of my return flight to Boston and discovered it left at 8:00 *pm* and not 8:00 *am*. So I had an unplanned day ahead of me. Instinctively I called Lien and she suggested we first drive to a beach on the northern part of the island and do some body surfing. Seemed like a good idea but I had not counted on the

difference between my normal stamina and her extraordinary stamina so at some point, when I dragged myself out of the water, Lien said with a gentle mixture of disappointment mixed perhaps with a little disdain for a mere mortal, “ What, done so soon?” I had to confess, that yes, I could not go on one minute more.

If I could, I would say to her now, with tears in my eyes, “What, done so soon? We will miss you”.

I am sure that Lien, with her vitality and her commitment to research would want much more than being missed and leaving behind a sense of loss. I could imagine her encouraging young people to take heart from the joy she found in her research, in her discoveries and in the way in which searching after the truth of the physical world also served as bridge of friendship with her colleagues. That example of the great human rewards of a life in science is her precious gift and her most permanent memorial.

Joe Pedlosky