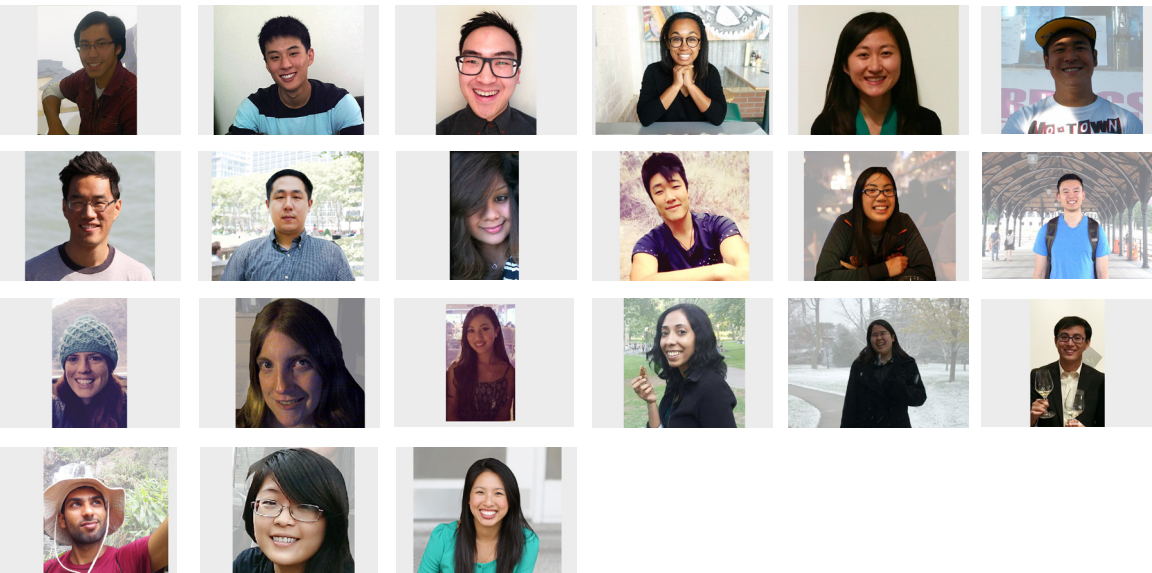


# Sharon Cao's 10 Year Memory Book

*August 2, 1989 – June 12, 2005*



# Sharon Cao's 10 Year Memory Book

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This book was created to share our favorite memories with Sharon. Although many of her friends are now scattered throughout the world, this book represents Sharon's power to pull us all together.

10 years ago we were all still beginning to learn what it means to grow-up, to cope with loss, to become better people. While we all still have a lot more to learn and a lot more to grow, we thank Sharon for being our guiding star - she has influenced so many of us and who we are today.

Sharon, we will continue to make you proud and hope you're still smiling your contagious smile. We miss you but know you're only a memory away.

-Sharon's Friends, 2015



Frank Chen  
San Francisco / Bay Area

Data science stuff in healthcare. Telling stories, breakin',  
pocket billiards, two-wheeled vehicular funtimes.

In 8th grade, I didn't like my glasses, so I took them off most of the time. Most of the time, I couldn't see. But in math class you said you liked my glasses, which was sufficient motivation for me to put them back on. Cool. I still wear specs today.



Rick Chen  
San Mateo, CA

Working as a biologist at NASA Ames Research Center.

My favorite memory with Sharon is her teaching me to make honking noises by blowing on blades of grass while sitting on the grass outside of our AP Physics class. Good times!



Wesley Hong  
Boston, MA

PhD in Material Sciences at MIT

San Ramon Arts & Wine  
Festival 2005.





Priscilla Banks  
Santa Rosa, CA

These days I work at a school for kids with special needs and I do some in-home behavior work, also with kids with special needs.

There was a specific bench that Sharon, Spring, and Lillian used to be at during lunchtimes. I would join them sometimes. It's one of the first things that comes to mind when I think of Sharon. But the one memory I will never forget was one lunch time when a bee landed in my hair. I ran over to them in a panic. And Spring tried to get the bee out of my hair but I kept moving. And every time I moved, the bee landed again. And then Sharon said "Stop moving!" Finally, the bee left. It seemed way more frightening at the time, but now it is one of my fondest and funniest memories.



Jay Wang  
Boston, MA

Ophthalmology Residency

Her waiting for me after class to walk to the next class together, and also her maniacal cackling, which she was quite good at.





Jhameel Kim (legally changed from Samuel Kim)  
Los Angeles, CA

YouTube musician

Favorite Memory of Sharon is the way she laughed with her eyes when we had bouts of teasing each other in class.



Charles Xue  
New Haven, CT

Graduate Student at Yale

All the times we went on  
trips with the family friends.

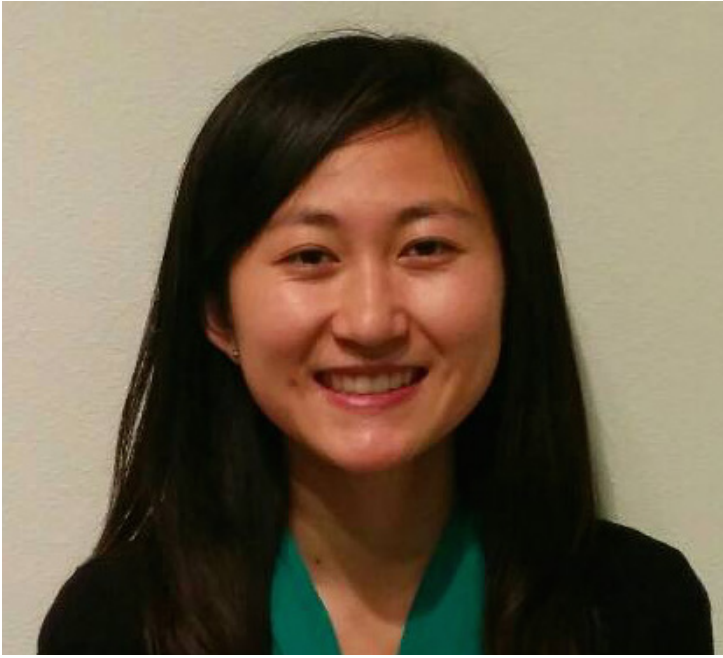


Margot Gates-George

I live in Tokyo, Japan, but currently I am living on the USS George Washington in the middle of the Pacific.

I am a helicopter pilot. I fly anti submarine helicopters for the US Navy. And when I am not working, I spend most of my time having fun in Tokyo.

One of my favorite Sharon memories involves a whole group of us. We were supposed to be playing bocce ball in PE and someone suggested we make a human pyramid instead (because that's almost the same as learning to play bocce ball). We were all laughing at ourselves and having a great time until someone (I am going to pin this on Bonnie) caused us to tip over and all just laugh at each other in a huge pile of friends for minutes. I can think of so many memories of Sharon and me laughing like crazy people over antagonizing a variety of teachers and by going a bit off book and creating a little bit of fun in a dull moment. Her laugh was infectious.



Spring Sun  
Union City, CA

Product Manager at McKesson for Generic  
Pharmaceuticals

We would go to the Pleasanton Tennis Park all the time after school - we had a theory that if you lay down when you're laughing, your laughter would become uncontrollable. So we did this, two silly girls laying on the grass laughing and laughing for no good reason.



Marisa Miyasaki  
Pleasanton, CA

Account Executive at Yelp

My favorite memory with Sharon is the summer our friends created the Boredom Crew. We were just a bunch of kids fresh out of middle school with way too much time on our hands. When we weren't all having hours-long conversations in AIM chatrooms, we were fine-tuning the schedule for our crew's "newsletter," an always-entertaining mash-up of jokes contributed by each member on their own designated day. I remember the crew became so sophisticated that we even built a website, and attracted a single recruit (whom none of us even knew). With incredible boredom came ingenuity, and we would entertain ourselves for hours on end with nothing but our imaginations. The summer culminated in a Boredom Crew BBQ at Yvonne's house, where we celebrated Sharon's birthday, and finally banded the entire crew together for what would be our only in-person hang out (in our defense, none of us had driver's licenses!). I don't remember when or how it happened, but the newsletters eventually came to a halt. One thing I'll never forget though is how hard we laughed, and how that summer with Sharon was pure joy.



Elizabeth Learned  
Tucson, AZ

I work for Safeway and I am also an editor  
for [TheCelebrityCafe.com](http://TheCelebrityCafe.com)

My favorite memory of Sharon is getting to know her through Journalism. Since I was two grades ahead of her, I never got to see her a lot outside of class. But I remember enjoying her presence and working with her. I remember one day working at the computers, I believe we were practicing a newspaper layout, and she leaned over to help me when I needed it. She was a sweet girl and I still think of her around this time.





Jack Hu  
Manhattan, NY

3D Modeler/Renderer for Bérard Associates

I knew Sharon briefly, but I remember that she gave me the impression of being one of the kindest people that I would meet. I remember messaging her on AOL Instant Messenger and being very happy that I had a chance to interact with her.



Varsha Narasimhan  
New York City, NY

Psychiatry Resident

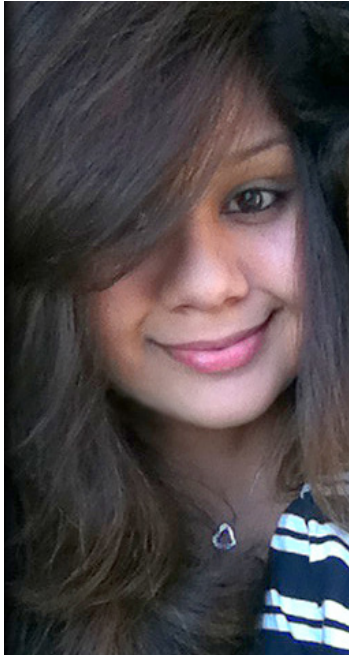
When I think of Sharon, I think of her laugh: frequent and easy, generally mischievous, always with the glint of irrepressible intelligence in her eye. I was 2 years older than her but I was a little in awe of her; she was this bundle of talent and capacities that you felt was bound for extraordinary things. I was proud to know her and excited to see who she would become. Part of the unfairness of losing her is that we didn't get to watch her grow over these ten years - without a doubt she would have been as remarkable now as she was then.



Bonnie Wu  
Pleasanton, CA

Hewlett-Packard Company

My favorite memory of Sharon is how she lived her life: her ambitions, shooting for the stars; her kindness, she showed to everyone; her clever humor, that didn't offend anyone; and what I miss most of all, those deep conversations into the morning hour, that made us closer friends.



Nicole Gandhi  
Mountain View, CA

I graduated med school, I have my M.D. now, and will  
start residency next year (2016)

Sharon and I only had one class together in high school, but most of our conversations were usually during lunch. Every time I walked over to say hi to her and Spring, she would always give me the sweetest and most innocent smile! Sometimes, even a few seconds with Sharon was priceless. I still remember how she always helped me turn my gloomy days into exciting and cheerful ones- with the positive aura she carried and a burst of joy, she always made my day! :-) I miss you, Sharon!



Sunny Agrawal  
Berkeley, CA

Working on my PhD in mathematics

When I start thinking about you, Sharon, what inevitably strikes me first is an image of you grinning. Then a backdrop appears: we're in my mom's car after school and you've just recited for us the word for pineapple in French. Ananas. You find it hilarious, and you're poised to break out laughing when, in just another moment, my mom tells you how to say pineapple in Hindi. The backdrop then changes, but your grin stays fixed in my mind. We're now in our algebra class, and you're amused at your own suggestion to chase after Descartes with a pitchfork. He does deserve it, after all. If it weren't for him and his eponymous plane, Mr. Ogle couldn't torture us by forcing us to meticulously graph each and every function that came up on our homework. The scene changes again, and now you're grinning as I butcher Shanghaiese. Ta ju le! Bini ngye hao vu la? In a moment you'll correct me, and I won't even know what I had said wrong in the first place.



Lillian Torng  
Pleasanton, CA

Working as a marketing manager at a start-up and making videos.

Had a blast that day with Sharon and Spring at Chuck E Cheeses back in high school. Found the photos we had taken there a few months ago and it made me smile.

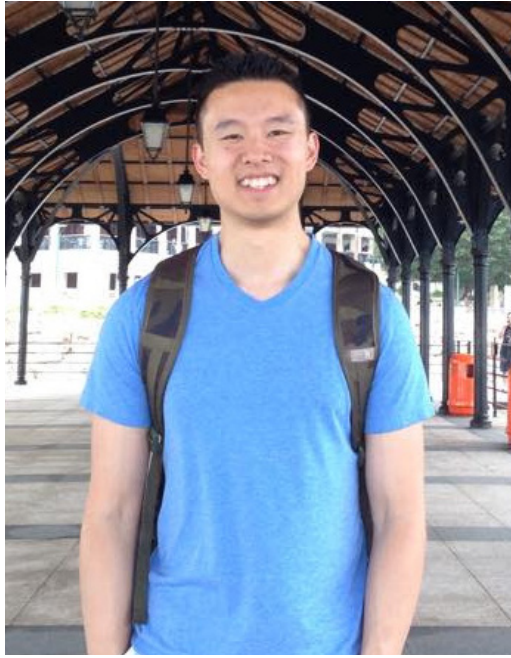




Marianne Leung  
Pleasanton, CA

Ross Stores, Inc., Corporate Tax Consultant

Sharon used to call me a klepto-maniac. I used to steal her eraser in French class because I sat right behind her and it was easy access. The whole period she tries to figure out where her eraser went.  
:P



Josh Liu  
Portland, OR

Intern year of Internal Medicine  
Residency at OHSU

Making fun of all the  
geeks in Mathcounts, only  
realizing we were making  
fun of ourselves!



Phil Auyang  
Houston, TX

Vascular Surgery Resident Houston

My fondest memories of Sharon were when we shared B period physics. We all joked a lot in class and we had a friendly competition between the two of us. We were always mad when someone else would best us on tests cough Shishir and Rick cough. We goofed around a lot and she would often turn to me and do the "vampire" by bringing her two index fingers and making large incisors. Her light heartedness was infectious. Sharon remains an inspiration to me to be the best physician I can be. I knew she had the same dreams and I hope I can keep a part of her through my career.



Christine Chen  
San Francisco, CA

Living in San Francisco, working in marketing  
for Gap Inc./Banana Republic and running a  
wedding photography business

Every single time I spoke with Sharon or crossed paths with her, she was always pleasant, sweet, kind, and always had a smile on her face. Not only was she a wonderful person to be around, she was also insanely smart, inspirational, and a stellar writer. I will always think of Sharon when I look back on my years at Fairlands Elementary- every single day on the way to school heading down w. Las Positas, I would see Sharon happily walking to school with a member of her family- rain or shine, even underneath an umbrella on those rainy days. I will never forget the day we learned of Sharon's passing because you could immediately feel the amazing impact she had on people's lives and the hole that it left in people's hearts. She was an amazing person and I will always wish I could have spent more time getting to know her, but am so thankful that I got a chance to have her as part of my childhood memories.



2007 - Post graduating from Foothill High School, Sharon's friends share their plans for the future and precious memories from the past. With Sharon looking over us, we are going to make her proud!



2008 - No longer high school babies, Sharon's friends visit and share the shenanigans of being freshmen in college.





2009 - Even though we may go to school in different places now,  
Sharon still brings us all together.



2010 - Sharon's Shooting Stars was first coined in 2006 as the team name for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life event. Sharon's Shooting Stars represents all the good that Sharon did not get a chance to share with the world - so as her shooting stars, we take the responsibility to complete what she could not.





2012 - Sharon loved to have fun and she loved being with people. Sharon is now memorialized at the Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, where thousands of people visit each year.



Stop by and say "Hi" when you visit.

*Sharon's Shooting Stars*  
2015