



## HELEN CHUA CHAN '73

### Close friend, classmate

By Frieda Garcia Baker '73

I do not remember how I first met Helen and when we started becoming close friends. I would imagine that we all became closer when we were in our junior year when staying in the dorm was required. Helen Chua, "*Siu Bee*", as we fondly called her, was part of the Chua threesome with Vivien and Evelyn. They were inseparable but always managed to be part of Class '73, "*The Mighty 50*" as we proudly called ourselves. We always knew when the Chuas were back at the dorm. There was this whiff of food that seemed to beckon us to follow its trail. And if I did not get to their room quickly enough, I would hear Siu Bee calling me and others to share their "*baons*" from home. Helen was our fashionable trendsetter and carried this trait months before she died. Helen married Paul a few months after graduating from Nursing. She decided to raise her family full time and did not pursue her nursing career. Her Nursing friends were never far from her mind and kept the communication open with them. I will miss my supportive, thoughtful, kind and generous friend. I will also miss her laughter and her zest for life.

Helen Chua was born of Chinese parents in Manila, Philippines on January 20, 1952. She was the sixth of seven children. She was a graduate of Grace Christian High School. She graduated Class '73 from Trinity-St. Luke's College of Nursing. She was a business partner with her husband, Paul Chan, first with "*Video Take Out*", and then "*Everything at Steak*" where her youngest son Allan is the chef.<sup>1</sup>

She died on May 23, 2006 of liver cancer at the age of 54. She is survived by her husband Paul, sons Jon Patrick and Allan in Manila.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Rosalind Chua, Personal Interview by Frieda Garcia Baker '73, June 11, 2006

<sup>2</sup> Photo from the archive of Evelyn Quijano Jiraksiban '73