Lee Karl J. Tong

In Memoriam by UC – Berkeley

Karl Tong was born in China in 1913 and at age 8 came to the US with his mother to join his father. He was left to support himself at age 16 when his family returned to China. After attending junior college, he successfully completed his BS in Chemistry at Berkeley in 1938. Through undergraduate research, he came to the attention of a chemistry faculty member who invited him to continue research in graduate school. He received a PhD in chemistry with Axel Olson in 1941.

He was recruited as a new PhD by the Eastman Kodak Company, where he worked for 30 years. He passed away on November 7, 2012, in Sherman Oaks, CA, survived by his wife, Nancy.

His family established the Lee Karl Tong Undergraduate Research Scholarship Fund at Berkeley to give undergraduates a similar opportunity to experience research and explore chemistry as a career possibility.